

PAW 1431

Chapter 1431: Not even one?

Noon.

Afternoon.

The temperature had risen a bit.

Several electric fans in the Investment Promotion Bureau office area were whirring, blowing air with a wheezing sound. The only window air conditioner was still broken and has not yet been fixed.

It was a bit hot.

But still within tolerable limits.

After finishing his speech, Dong Xuebing sat down to work with everyone. When they worked overtime, Dong Xuebing worked overtime; when they worked, Dong Xuebing worked. He portrayed an image of sharing hardships with everyone, not just for show. In reality, Dong Xuebing was indeed doing just that, very seriously. The office was filled with the busy sounds of typing, phone calls, and document printing. Everyone had been mobilized, perhaps forced, by Dong Xuebing's trick of offering sweet rewards first and then the stick, making everyone feel a sense of urgency.

At this moment, Zheng Dayou found Dong Xuebing.

"Mayor Dong."

"Old Zheng, what's up?"

"Can we talk privately?"

"Sure, let's go to your office."

In the director's office, the two entered and closed the door.

Dong Xuebing sat on the sofa, took out two cigarettes, and handed one to Zheng Dayou. Both lit their cigarettes and began to puff smoke in the room.

"Old Zheng, go ahead," Dong Xuebing said.

Zheng Dayou hesitated for a moment. "Earlier, I didn't feel comfortable saying anything with everyone around. Mayor Dong, please don't take it the wrong way when I speak frankly. I know the county is facing difficulties now and urgently needs long-term financial support through attracting investments. That's the only way to fundamentally turn around our county's financial shortage situation, and I understand that. But the problem is our county's actual situation is too poor. You've seen the past achievements of the Investment Promotion Bureau five million, an average of five million per year. Last year's one million was the best performance in recent years. Now, the county is asking us to bring in fifty million RMB. I understand the policy directive, but we cannot achieve this. How are we going to get this fifty million RMB?"

Dong Xuebing said, "There will always be a way."

Zheng Dayou smiled bitterly, "I can't think of a way. The City Investment Fair is a good opportunity, but attracting three to five million RMB of investments would already be quite good. That's how it was last year. Fifty million is simply impossible to achieve within a month. When the county investigates later, then"

Dong Xuebing calmly said, "If we can't achieve it, I'll take responsibility. Old Zheng, I know you're under pressure. I'll share a bottom line with you. I proposed this investment plan. If there's any blame, I'll take it all. I can handle it, and you won't be implicated."

"Mayor Dong, that's not what I mean. I'm not afraid of taking responsibility, but the problem is, I just can't see any momentum for us to bring in fifty million RMB."

Outside.

After the two leaders left, the others began to chatter.

"Do we have to bring in fifty million RMB?"

"Fifty million RMB? That's our Investment Promotion Bureau's annual performance for ten years!"

"Yeah, this is too exaggerated. Where are we going to find it?"

"But Mayor Dong said the county has given us the task, and we must deliver, even if it seems impossible."

"Sigh. I don't know if our positions will be at stake if they investigate the responsibility."

The Organization Department just completed its inspection, and the appointments should be announced tomorrow. The positions are still warm, and they'll have to be moved in a month.

No one could accept that.

It's difficult to transition from luxury to simplicity.

After a while, Zheng Dayou came out of the office. Everyone quieted down and continued to focus on their busy work. From Zheng Dayou's expression, everyone could see that Director Zheng had no confidence. After all, having worked in the Investment Promotion Bureau for many years, he knew the county's situation better than anyone else. However, despite the expressions, Zheng Dayou did not show any slack or neglect in his actions. When he saw Chen Yunsong extending a phone with an ongoing call, Zheng Dayou cleared his throat and picked it up, encouraging investors to come.

Inside.

Dong Xuebing didn't leave the office but sat on the sofa, extinguishing his cigarette and closing his eyes, contemplating for a moment. Dong Xuebing could see everyone's mood and knew what they were thinking. However, Dong Xuebing was not infected by their lack of confidence. When he was in Yantai County, the targets given to them by the higher-ups for the Investment Promotion Bureau were much higher than this. Although the actual situations of the two counties couldn't be compared directly, strictly speaking, the difficulty of attracting investment in Zhen Shui County was more than ten times greater than in Yan Tai County. However, Dong Xuebing was accustomed to this kind of pressure and had walked out of similar predicaments step by step. He was used to this kind of pressure and had confidence in his abilities. He knew quite a few investors.

It's only a few days left.

Why not make a few calls to those old friends?

Seeing that there was no progress below, Dong Xuebing felt he also had to act. If he could bring in a few major investors, it could also reassure comrades in the county and the Investment Promotion Bureau.

Du-du-du.

The call went through.

"Hello, Xuebing."

"Brother Mu, it's me."

"Hehe, what's up?"

"Can you talk now? I have something to discuss with you."

"Sure, go ahead."

Dong Xuebing first called Mu Zhengzhong, a wealthy philanthropist, and an expert in cultural relic appraisal who owned a museum in the capital. The national treasure Dong Xuebing brought back from Japan was given to Mu Zhengzhong as a gift. In return, Mu Zhengzhong helped exchange several cultural relics with the country. Due to this favor, Mu Zhengzhong invested a substantial amount of money in the Investment Promotion Bureau during the investment fair in Yan Tai County, leading to Dong Xuebing's significant achievements and subsequent promotion.

"Oh, so you've been transferred to Zhen Shui County now. You might not know, but it's a nationally designated poverty-stricken county in the West. I'm in charge of investment promotion here. If you're available this weekend, could you help me? Do you have any plans?" Dong Xuebing asked.

Mu Zhengzhong replied, "Oh, I have something to do this weekend."

Dong Xuebing said, "How about next week? The investment fair will last for two weeks."

"Next week may not work either. Xuebing, I'm afraid I can't help you this time. Let me be honest with you. After the investment in Yantai County, there was an earthquake, causing significant losses. The construction had already started, and the money was almost wasted. I also have some financial problems now."

Dong Xuebing apologized, "I'm sorry about that."

Mu Zhengzhong said, "It's okay. It's not your fault. Besides, you couldn't have predicted the earthquake. That money was a favor I owed you, no hard feelings."

"If you can't make it, could you recommend some other friends who might be interested? We've arranged your flight and accommodation; we need investors."

"Which county are you in?"

"Zhen Shui County, part of Meihuo City."

"I know Meihuo City. That place is a bit remote. I doubt they'll go. Let me check for you."

"Great, thanks a lot."

"That's it for now; I have something to attend to."

After hanging up, Dong Xuebing, feeling a bit unlucky, continued to make a call, this time to Park Yong-hee, a grandmaster in the field of taekwondo in Korea.

"Hello, Master Park."

"Is it Xiao Dong?"

"Yes, it's me. Where are you now?"

"In Korea. What's up?"

"Well, next week, we have an investment fair. Would you be honored to join us?"

"Ah, don't mention investment fairs. Last time, the venue we invested in with your county collapsed halfway through construction due to an earthquake. Workers lost their lives after the earthquake."

"I take responsibility for that. I apologize."

"It's not your fault. It just happened."

"Right, I didn't call to ask you for investments. We've known each other for so long. I just wanted to invite you to help me and support the event."

"Next time, these days are quite busy."

"If you fly over, it's not far, just a few hours. We've arranged the plane tickets."

"Next time, next week, I have a competition."

"Okay, no problem. If you have other friends from your country who might be interested, could you introduce them to us? We have policies for foreign investments, and there are significant incentives."

"The reconstruction work in Yan Tai County"

"It's not Yan Tai County anymore; I'm working in Zhen Shui County in the West now."

"In the West? No need to ask, my friends won't go there. If they want to invest, they prefer your country's first and second-tier cities."

"Alright, then. Thanks for considering. We won't bother you anymore. We'll contact you later. If you have time, come to our country, and I'll treat you to a meal."

"Okay."

After several unsuccessful calls, Dong Xuebing realized he had not reached anyone. He felt a bit embarrassed; he had spent hours persuading them and thrown away his dignity. Even if one or two people came, it would have given him some face, but no one had agreed.

Until the end of the afternoon, Dong Xuebing hadn't contacted anyone.

This made him blush a little, feeling somewhat embarrassed. Despite his efforts and hours spent, not even a single person agreed. Most of his contacts were billionaires, earning large sums of money every minute, even if they were just sitting at home. Delaying for a day meant losing a significant amount of money.

He called over a dozen people in the afternoon, but without exception, everyone turned him down. Those old friends and investors who had dealt with him before, when they heard about Dong

Xuebing's investment promotion or that it was in a nationally designated poverty-stricken county either claimed financial difficulties or made excuses about being busy recently. Dong Xuebing even assured them they didn't need to invest, just attend as guests or tourists, but they still found reasons not to come. Dong Xuebing realized they had been scared off hearing the name Zhen Shui County.

Chapter 1432: Lazy Sister Chang

Thursday.

Morning.

After breakfast at the stall, his old classmate Yao Cui's parents opened, and Dong Xuebing's phone rang. Without even saying a few words to Yao's parents, he greeted them, left five yuan on the table, and hurriedly walked to the side of the road, opening the door of his own Land Rover.

"Hello, Mr. Liang."

"Xuebing, I inquired for you."

"Oh, thanks. How is it?"

"My friends can't free up time."

"The round-trip flight doesn't take much time, just one or two days."

"The main issue is that your place is too remote, and there's nothing they are interested in."

"Mr. Liang, we have many projects, and there are policy benefits. Otherwise, let me send you a brief list of our projects."

"Let it be, maybe next time."

"Alright, thanks anyway."

"No need to thank me; I haven't helped you much."

After hanging up, Dong Xuebing shook his head helplessly, lit a cigarette, and, feeling a bit tired, rested his hand on the steering wheel. He closed his eyes for a moment, realizing that he had been contacting old friends since yesterday afternoon. After spending the whole afternoon making calls at home, he had contacted many people. However, the situation was not good. Dong Xuebing's face couldn't pull in a single person, not that he had a small face, but his relationships with those people were ordinary. During the investment fair in Yan Tai County, Hui Lan brought in some people from the capital. Still, after the earthquake, those who had invested suffered significant losses. Dong Xuebing couldn't ask Hui Lan to use favors and connections again, so the matter remained unresolved.

Let's go.

Let's see what progress there is at the Investment Promotion Bureau.

Dong Xuebing stubbed out the cigarette, started the car, and headed to work.

Investment Promotion Bureau.

In the small courtyard building.

After making a few calls when he woke up, Dong Xuebing was already a bit late going out today, causing a further delay. When he came in, it was already 9:30, and he was late.

Office area.

Everyone is busy.

"Xiao Gong, are the documents ready?"

"In the process of printing, almost done."

"Director Cheng, there's a call for you from your family."

"Let him call back later. I can't leave right now."

"Section Chief Chen, did Old Zhao respond to your message?"

"Not yet, Director Zheng. I'll remind him again."

"Okay. This person must be secured. Be more attentive."

Busy, many people are not sitting in their seats but running back and forth. Some are typing files, others are answering calls, and others are searching the internet. Dong Xuebing was at the door, and they hadn't noticed him. They are focused on their tasks. Although the enthusiasm for work doesn't seem very high emotionally, everyone is unexpectedly working hard. Clearly, without pressure, there is no motivation. Everyone is feeling the urgency.

Only Chang Juan is sitting steadily, typing on the computer with the sound of clattering keys. Who knows what she's busy with?

Seeing this, Dong Xuebing is also very satisfied. Even if things haven't progressed, the attitude of everyone gives him comfort.

Yes, worthy of praise.

This is what we need. This kind of dedication.

Dong Xuebing didn't disturb them or say anything. He quietly walked into the office area where the printer was clattering and took a casual look.

"Director Chang."

"Yeah, what's up?"

"Could you take a look at this project list?"

"Sure, just leave it here. I'll look at it later; I'm busy with something else."

"Okay, focus on your work; I'll leave it on your desk."

Dong Xuebing has always had a good impression of Director Chang, a cute big sister. However, he has never evaluated Chang Juan's work capabilities. As an old colleague, Dong Xuebing knows her inside out. While working with her at the State Security Bureau General Affairs, Chang Juan spent the whole day applying makeup with a small mirror and cosmetics. Anyway, she never did anything serious. So, when Dong Xuebing saw Chang Juan working so seriously, he nodded slightly. Chang Juan seems to have matured a lot after the accident in the capital. The urgent atmosphere in the office should significantly impact her; she probably wants to work seriously now. That's good.

Dong Xuebing showed approving eyes. But when he took a few steps forward and sneakily walked behind Chang Juan to see what she was busy with, his eyes fell on the computer screen in front of Chang Juan. Dong Xuebing suddenly staggered, almost falling to the ground, barely avoiding cursing.

Fighting the landlord?!

Chang Juan is playing games at work?

Not only that, she even opened three or four windows to chat with three or four people simultaneously while playing Landlord and typing to urge them to play faster. Dong Xuebing wondered why she was so busy; her hands barely left the keyboard. Playing cards and chatting with four people simultaneously, it's strange not to be busy.

Eight of Hearts, a card is played.

Immediately typing, "What kind of internet speed do you have? Hurry up and play!"

With a mouse click, a small window typed, "I'm at the office, hehe."

This busyness is all-consuming, completely immersed, unaware of someone behind.

Dong Xuebing was angry and amused, not knowing what to say to Chang Juan.

"Ah."

"Mayor Dong."

"Mayor Dong, you're here."

Finally, someone noticed Dong Xuebing in the room, and everyone looked over.

Chang Juan was stunned, and when she turned her head and saw Dong Xuebing standing behind her, she was also taken aback. She hastily closed the Landlord game and minimized all the chat windows. Chang Juan also cares about her reputation; her face couldn't help but flush a bit, and she coughed once, calling Mayor Dong.

Dong Xuebing acknowledged her, saying to everyone, "Let's get back to work." Seeing everyone continue focusing on their tasks, he looked at Chang Juan and said, "Director Chang, come here for a moment."

Chang Juan embarrassedly said, "Ah?"

"I need to talk to you," Dong Xuebing said, walking away.

Chang Juan was uneasy and hurriedly followed.

In the director's office.

Zheng Dayou has now moved his office outside. This room has become the meeting room for the Investment Promotion Bureau. As soon as he entered, Dong Xuebing sat on the sofa.

Seeing this, Chang Juan didn't dare to sit and quickly said, "Xuebing, just now I made a mistake. Please don't be mad at me."

Dong Xuebing sighed, "Everyone is busy, but you're playing games and chatting. What do people think when they see you?"

Chang Juan quickly said, "Rest assured, I won't do it again. I just arrived and am unfamiliar with the work. I don't know anything, and they are so busy, I don't want to bother them by asking how to do the work. It's embarrassing to ask subordinates, so I'm idle alone, waiting for you to assign tasks so I can work seriously."

Dong Xuebing remained silent.

Chang Juan glanced at him and didn't make excuses. "Xuebing, you know who I am. I just came here after hearing about your situation. You immediately arranged a job for me and even promoted me. You helped me get rid of the suspension and file entry. I know you treat me well. I won't cause you trouble or disappoint you."

Dong Xuebing said, "Maybe I was a bit harsh."

"Not at all, not at all." Chang Juan looked at him and said, "I'm a lazy person who needs supervision and criticism. My husband is soft-hearted and never dares to say anything to me. This character of mine has gradually developed. You criticize me correctly. In the future, as long as I did something wrong, feel free to criticize me. It won't be a problem. When I return, I'll uninstall the game; I won't play anymore."

Dong Xuebing said, "Actually, playing a little during lunch break is okay. But, at least, you need to show a working attitude. I believe you understand what I mean. If I see it, it's fine, but don't let others see it." If it were someone else playing games during work hours, Dong Xuebing would probably get angry, but since it's Chang Juan, he can't bring himself to be angry.

People and relationships have varying degrees of closeness and distance.

Chang Juan nodded, looking at him, reaching out to touch Dong Xuebing's hand. "You're always good to me."

Chapter 1433: The Final Trump Card

Morning.

Office area.

Chang Juan, pointed out by Dong Xuebing, came out of the office. After returning to her seat, she uninstalled the game and started working. Dong Xuebing came out later, took a look, and couldn't help but smile when he saw Sister Chang correcting her ways. Although he knew that Chang Juan's busyness was somewhat aimless and she couldn't help much, at least she showed a work attitude. With everyone busy working and no chance for gossip, Dong Xuebing naturally had nothing to say.

"Old Zheng."

"Mayor Dong."

"How's the progress?"

"Haven't counted yet, I'll check."

"Good, let's all report on the progress of our work."

Dong Xuebing and Zheng Dayou spoke, and everyone stopped their work, gathering in front of the two leaders with helpless looks on their faces.

Zheng Dayou looked at Cheng Yujie, "Old Cheng, how's your side?"

Cheng Yujie said, "The project documents have been organized, and several templates have been printed."

Gong Na handed over the sample promotional materials for Dong Xuebing and Zheng Dayou to see.

Dong Xuebing took a look and felt it was okay. After discussing with Zheng Dayou, the two nodded, "Good job."

Cheng Yujie took credit, "Yesterday, Xiao Gong and I worked until after eight in the evening." Perhaps feeling too obvious, Cheng Yujie added, "But it's all expected. Director Chen and Xiao Xiao from the other side also stayed late."

Dong Xuebing looked at Chen Yunsong, "Xiao Chen, how about your side?"

Chen Yunsong looked troubled, "Sorry, Mayor Dong, there hasn't been much progress."

Zheng Dayou looked at him. "Last year, there were still a few investors who could come, right?"

Chen Yunsong sighed, "I've contacted everyone I could. They are all busy, and things have piled up, so"

Dong Xuebing asked, "The investment promotion conference is just two days away. Do you have confidence in attracting how many people?"

Chen Yunsong hesitated momentarily, "We will do our best, but from the looks of it now, it's possible that no one we've already made the calls, and the number of investors we know is limited. There's little hope for further contacts in the next two days."

Zheng Dayou was a bit angry, "What are you doing? Didn't we say securing support from Mr. Zhao and Mr. Sun is crucial? Even if they don't invest, at least they should attend."

Chen Yunsong had no words to reply.

Xiao Hong also remained silent.

They did their best, but things didn't go as smoothly as they had hoped.

Dong Xuebing sighed and said, "It's not your fault. I've also worked in investment promotion before and might know more investors than you do. But I couldn't bring in a single person even with dozens of calls I made yesterday. They shake their heads as soon as they hear it's a nationally impoverished county."

Zheng Dayou said, "But it's a 50 million RMB task."

"I'll figure something out. Everyone, keep moving. Don't give up. Even if only one person comes, we must do what needs to be done." Dong Xuebing's words were no longer as confident as a few days ago. Previously, he thought bringing in some people wouldn't be a problem, but now he realized what it meant to be a nationally impoverished county. He temporarily put away his blind confidence.

50 million RMB.

It seems it's not that simple.

Ring, ring, ring, the phone rang.

Dong Xuebing saw that it was a call from Secretary Meng's office. He immediately waved his hand to signal everyone to continue working and entered his office, closing the door.

"Hello, Secretary Meng."

"Mayor Dong, how is the progress of the investment promotion work?"

"Well, it's okay. Everything is proceeding according to plan."

"That's good. During the meeting, I've emphasized the importance of this investment promotion for our county."

"I know, Secretary Meng. You can rest assured; we will win this battle."

"Good, that's what I wanted to hear. Mayor Jiang and I look forward to the performance of your investment promotion work. Busy now, goodbye."

"Goodbye, Secretary Meng."

"Okay, goodbye."

The county is probably aware that their work is not going smoothly, and this is a reminder.

Dong Xuebing naturally couldn't let his morale drop, and without going into details, after hanging up the phone, he sat on the chair, thinking and feeling the increasing pressure.

Fifty million RMB.

Fifty million RMB.

The usual methods seem to be ineffective.

With no one coming, it's uncertain how much investment they can attract.

Dong Xuebing squinted his eyes, deciding in his heart. He had initially thought he could secure this investment promotion conference through his connections. However, now it seemed he had been too optimistic, underestimating the investment environment in Zhen Shui County. Nevertheless, Dong Xuebing remained calm; even if his old friends were unwilling to come and his past relationships couldn't help, he still had one last ace up his sleeve.

Picking up his phone, Dong Xuebing reluctantly made an international call.

Ring, ring, ring.

Ring, ring, ring.

The call went through.

"Hey, whose call is this?" A mature and charming female voice came from the other end. "Why did our little handsome guy think of calling his sister?"

Dong Xuebing smiled awkwardly, "Don't tease me. My mood isn't good right now. Where are you?"

The woman on the other end was Zhang Longjuan, "Hehe, I'm in Florida, at the company office. What's bothering you? Tell your sister."

Dong Xuebing sighed, "There's an investment promotion conference this weekend, and I am in charge. I made several calls to my old friends, but no one showed up. I'm really at a loss here. That's

why I thought of calling you. Sister Zhang, please don't just humor me. You must come to our city this weekend; otherwise, I'll lose face."

"Hehe, this weekend?"

"Yes, this weekend. Saturday and Sunday both work. At the latest, next week is also fine. The investment promotion conference will last for quite a while. You check your schedule."

"How much money are we talking about?"

"Fifty million is enough."

"Alright, then. Sister will come over and help your boy hold up the facade. Haha, it's related to your promotion, right? Consider it your political achievement."

"Yeah, it's related."

"Sister knows it. Don't worry."

"Then, thank you in advance."

"Our company also has a twenty percent stake for you. Naturally, you're also a shareholder with the right to make decisions. Lately, several incidents have been suppressing the investment of the Republic and Chinese investors internationally, making people uneasy. I also want to gradually shift investments back to the country."

"But to be honest, our county's investment environment is unfavorable. If you invest this money, I'm afraid you won't see returns for several years."

"Haha, returns? Are you kidding me? It's just fifty million RMB. Our company's assets are nearly tens of billions of RMB. Even if I lose it all, I won't bat an eye."

Chapter 1434: Zhen Shui County's secluded exhibition counter

Two days later.

Saturday, early in the morning, around five o'clock.

Most of the sky was still dark, with a faint hint of dawn spreading at the horizon. The streetlights cast a halo on the streets.

Dong Xuebing left his house, got into his car, and called Zhang Longjuan.

"Hey, Sister Zhang, are you busy?"

"Not at all. Haha, what's up, my little handsome guy?"

"I just wanted to confirm the time and number of tickets for the flight with you."

"Considering the time difference, it's still early morning there. Why are you up so early?"

"Yeah, today is the investment promotion conference. I must rush to the city later, so I must leave early. I should have prepared yesterday, but there were some issues on the city's side. The venue hasn't been secured yet, so it got delayed today. There's still much to do, so I must discuss the flight details with you first. Should I book three tickets for your company's senior management as well?"

"Don't worry about the plane tickets."

"We can reimburse here."

"Such a small amount of money. I can afford it."

"Well then, what are your plans?"

"Haha, look at the time. I'll give you a surprise when the time comes."

"Any surprise is fine, just make sure you can come. We'll discuss the timing later."

"Don't worry. I will come. But I have to arrange things here first. The timing is uncertain yet. Wait for my message."

"Alright, I know you're busy. No rush."

"No hurry is fine. Haha, let's stop here. I got another call coming in."

"Alright. You do your thing. Call me when the time is confirmed."

While he spoke casually, Dong Xuebing wasn't as indifferent in his heart. The estimated plan had undergone significant changes, and Dong Xuebing now wanted to swallow the reassurance pill as soon as possible. However, Sister Zhang's way of doing things was reliable, and they had a deep relationship. There shouldn't be any changes. With this in mind, Dong Xuebing felt more at ease. While driving, he made another call.

"Hello, City Investment Promotion Bureau."

"I'm Dong Xuebing, in charge of investment promotion in Zhen Shui County."

"Oh, Mayor Dong. We were just about to inform you."

"Is the venue ready? We can come over now."

"Yes, everything is ready. You can come over now. Remember the address, It's at the Central Park on South Street Second Avenue."

"Central Park?"

"This investment promotion conference is quite large, and there wasn't a large venue available, so they decided at the last minute to set up facilities and booths in Central Park."

"Alright, I got it."

"The investment promotion conference starts at 9 a.m. Hurry over."

Ten minutes later.

In the courtyard of the Investment Promotion Bureau.

Dong Xuebing's car arrived, and he got out after parking.

Yesterday, Dong Xuebing informed the people at the Investment Promotion Bureau. Now, everyone was here. Zheng Dayou and Cheng Yujie looked the most composed, while Chen Yunsong appeared slightly anxious. Chang Juan and Gong Na were yawning, having woken up early. It was clear they hadn't slept well.

"Mayor Dong." Seeing Dong Xuebing, everyone greeted him.

Dong Xuebing didn't waste any words. "The venue is ready. Let's get going."

Zheng Dayou reminded him, "You haven't assigned tasks yet. How should we arrange the details?"

Dong Xuebing quickly thought and said, "Sister Cheng, you stay at the Investment Promotion Bureau. If any investors come for inspections, you'll be ready to receive them, coordinate logistics, and ensure everything goes smoothly. As for you, Xiao Xiao, stay as well. Once we finalize our contacts, you'll take the investors for on-site inspections. Familiarize yourself with several projects, remember them well, and don't just read off the project list. It might give investors an untrustworthy feeling. Regarding policy fluctuations, you can discuss them with the investors. If you can't make decisions, contact me and Director Zheng. You can come over anytime if they need more personnel at the investment promotion conference. There is no need to stick to one place; be flexible. Wherever they need personnel, move there. One car will be left for you."

Xiao Hong immediately responded, "Okay."

Cheng Yujie also assured that she would complete the tasks.

"Sister Cheng, Xiao Xiao, I'm entrusting this to both of you. Remember," Dong Xuebing repeatedly reminded them not to make any mistakes because he knew that in investment promotion work, even a small detail could determine success or failure. After quickly assigning the tasks, he added, "The rest of you, get in the cars. Let's go to the city, move faster. The opening is at 9 a.m., and there's much to do, including setting up the booths."

Old Wei, the driver, was already waiting in the car.

Two new Passats were bought. They are black and look very sleek.

Chen Yunsong and Chang Juan got into Dong Xuebing's Land Rover, with Chen Yunsong taking the wheel. Zheng Dayou and Gong Na were there in the Passat.

The cars set off, heading towards the city.

6.30 am.

The sky had brightened.

In the center of Meihuo City, the Central Park, cars lined almost half the iron fence outside, densely packed in a large circle. Checking the license plates, most were domestically produced vehicles from the investment promotion bureaus of various districts and counties in Meihuo City. Quite a few people had arrived. Glancing inside the fence, Dong Xuebing saw many booths were already temporarily set up. Dong Xuebing and his team weren't particularly early, but they weren't late either.

"Look at the time."

"Quick, move these things here."

"Is Director Li here?"

"What's going on? How can you forget the list? Go back and get it for me."

Faint shouts and hustle and bustle could be heard within the park, creating a sense of urgency.

Zheng Dayou and the others knew there wasn't much time. As soon as they got out of the car, Chen Yunsong and Gong Na started unloading project brochures from the Passat's trunkseveral hundred copies that weren't light.

Looking at Dong Xuebing, Chang Juan said, "Mayor Dong, leave this to us. You go have breakfast first. We'll ensure everything is arranged by the time you return."

Dong Xuebing glanced at them, "Are you sure you can handle it?"

Chang Juan replied, "We'll make it. You can trust us."

Dong Xuebing said, "Okay then. I'll bring breakfast for everyone when I come back."

Gong Na hurriedly said, "Mayor Dong, please don't. Let me go buy it."

"You guys set up the booth; hurry up. I'll be right back." Dong Xuebing got into his car and left.

Before 9 a.m., the booths should be set up, and there was plenty of time. Dong Xuebing's current concern was the issue with investors. He had contacted a few investors in the last couple of days, and even though he had confirmed with two or three of them when they were about to register and book flights and hotels through the City Investment Promotion Bureau, they suddenly said they had urgent matters and couldn't make it. After much hassle, they ended up with no investors. When they later booked hotel rooms, they only reserved for a few staff members from the Investment Promotion Bureau, making Dong Xuebing feel quite embarrassed. The county didn't ask for updates later, and Dong Xuebing didn't proactively report the progress. He had been so confident and committed when he made the military order initially, and now, with such results, Dong Xuebing couldn't bring himself to talk about it. At least he would wait for Zhang Longjuan to arrive. Ah, he wondered when Sister Zhang would come.

Not far from the early breakfast stall.

To save trouble, Dong Xuebing bought a large bag of buns, some with vegetable fillings and some with meat fillings. Since there was no fried liver here, he bought some plastic-packaged soy milk to serve as a diluter.

At the entrance of the park.

Dong Xuebing walked in with breakfast.

A staff member from the City Investment Promotion Bureau stopped him.

"Who are you?"

"I'm from Zhen Shui County."

"How should I address you?"

"Dong Xuebing."

The person was slightly surprised, probably having heard of Dong Xuebing's name, giving him a deep look. He immediately searched through a box nearby and handed him a work permit. "Your access pass."

Dong Xuebing took it. "Good, thank you."

"The exhibition area for Zhen Shui County is at the back."

"Just keep going inside?"

"Yes, keep going straight along this road."

Dong Xuebing nodded, using one hand to clip the access pass to his clothes, making it look formal. This pass was designed to better maintain order at the venue, preventing unrelated people from entering. It also differentiated identities because most investment promotion staff from one county or district wouldn't recognize those from another. If the people from Zhen Shui County caught hold of the investment promotion staff from Cheng Gang County, for example, thinking they were investors and kept handing out flyers, it could be embarrassing. With the work permit, everything became more convenient, at least giving a clear identity at a glance.

Inside the park.

Green grass surrounded them; it was morning, so the air was very fresh.

The park had a considerable area, including small hills. However, it seemed that the rear mountain wasn't the venue for this event. Most booths were concentrated in the front square as soon as they entered.

Walking and walking.

Walking and walking.

Dong Xuebing looked around at the booths on both sides and surprisingly didn't find the sign for Zhen Shui County.

It wasn't until he walked for about three or four minutes that he saw Zheng Dayou, Chang Juan, Gong Na, and others. He was slightly stunned; they seemed to be arguing with someone.

"It's too far."

"There's no space in front anymore."

"But we can't be assigned here."

"It's not too biased. Investors will visit every corner."

"Then why are our booths an exception at Zhen Shui County compared to others?"

"Director Zheng, this is the exhibition area arranged by higher-ups. It doesn't matter how much you shout at me; I'm just a messenger. The booths have already been booked, and we can't change it now."

"Who made the arrangement?"

"Mayor Hua made the arrangement."

The staff member said a few more words and left.

Leaving a group of Zhen Shui County Investment Promotion Bureau staff members with gloomy faces.

Dong Xuebing's expression also darkened when he heard it. He looked at the booth with Zhenshui County's sign hanging, almost at the bottom of the small hill. It was the farthest and worst location among all the booths. Even the temporarily built booths were lower quality than others, with old tables and chairs.

Different treatment.

Arranged by Deputy Mayor Hua Li.

Enough is enough. This guy hasn't finished yet. Why didn't he notify me in advance of the Investment Promotion Conference? Now he's playing this nasty trick on me.

Dong Xuebing was a little annoyed. He hadn't settled the account with Hua Li for Hui Lan's incident yet, and he didn't expect the other party to be fed up with him several times first.

Chapter 1435: The Investment Promotion Fair started

In the park, at the foot of the hill.

When Dong Xuebing returned, Zheng Dayou and the others from the Zhen Shui County Investment Promotion Bureau gathered around him. Chang Juan was relatively calm, but others appeared quite upset.

"Mayor Dong."

"What's going on here?"

"Who does things like this?"

"So far away, it's strange if any investors come."

"Our county's investment promotion results were decent last year. Why are we being placed at the end? Have you seen the booths from other counties? Some are even twice our size, and the tables and chairs are brand new. But what about ours? What is this?"

"It feels like bullying."

"This is a blatant targeting."

"I think it's because of the money we asked from the city last month. But that was the central government's allocation to our county."

"I'll find their person in charge."

"Yes, we must talk to them about this."

Everyone's emotions were running high.

Dong Xuebing, on the other hand, remained the calmest. He didn't say anything and walked into the booth. After glancing around, he placed the buns and soy milk on the table, inviting everyone, "Come on, let's eat." He then sat down and started eating.

Everyone was hungry, so they sat down one by one.

Even though it was a meal, the discomfort on everyone's faces was evident.

Dong Xuebing, however, knew that this incident wasn't just a result of the aftermath of the money issue with the city. It was also related to Deputy Mayor Hua Li. He found it somewhat amusing that this guy had already grown tired of him before they could settle Huilan's incident.

Inside the park.

Around 8 o'clock.

A car from the city drove in.

Their investment promotion vehicles were prohibited from entering, so this car was special. As the car stopped, several leaders got out. At the forefront was Deputy Mayor Hua Li. Following him was the city's Investment Promotion Bureau director, Lu Weiguo. City leaders and key leaders of the Investment Promotion Bureau had all arrived. The atmosphere became lively, with many people going up to greet them. Hua Li and Lu Weiguo also strolled around, inspecting the progress of the arrangements.

Even though they were far away, the people from Zhen Shui County saw them.

"Mayor Dong."

"Should I go and talk to the leaders?"

"Our position is too bad."

"Yeah, it's so remote. We won't attract investors here. What about that 50 million RMB?"

Everyone thought Mayor Dong would get angry, confront the city leaders, and maybe even have a heated argument. Others couldn't imagine doing such things, but they knew Mayor Dong could do it. After all, they had learned a bit about his temperament through their interactions and the rumors. However, to their surprise, Dong Xuebing hadn't said anything from beginning to end. He remained calm, shook his head to dismiss their suggestions, and sat down in the booth, waiting for the investment promotion to start. Even Chang Juan couldn't help but give Dong Xuebing a curious look, wondering what had happened.

Is this still Dong Xuebing?

When did his temper become so good?

Everyone seemed to not recognize him; their expressions were varied.

Dong Xuebing had his plan. Firstly, he had already decided and didn't want to waste time arguing with these people. Secondly, after causing so much trouble recently, especially the sensitive and secretive issues, he didn't want to stir up any more trouble during such a significant investment promotion. Otherwise, if it became too chaotic, he might be unable to handle it, affecting his promotion. Dong Xuebing's goal for this investment promotion was clear to secure a significant political achievement for early promotion to the deputy division level.

With his legs crossed.

Smoking a Zhonghua cigarette.

Dong Xuebing appeared calm for the first time.

People blinked, looking at Dong Xuebing with various expressions.

Dong Xuebing didn't say anything, focusing on his affairs.

One hour.

Two hours.

Soon, it was 9 am.

Very punctual. Vehicles started to enter the venue continuously. Some were Jinbei vans, some were seven-seater business cars, and many were sedans. The investors had arrived. Many must have

stayed in hotels yesterday; otherwise, it wouldn't be possible for them to arrive so promptly. Some were probably just off the plane, with the city dispatching cars to pick them up. As people arrived, the scene became more lively. Many county and city Investment Promotion Bureau staff eagerly stared at them, like wolves eyeing sheep. Everyone wanted to grab a few, as securing an investment project meant monetary incentives and a hefty political achievement. Who wouldn't be eager for that?

"Director Liu."

"Haha, Mr. Sheng."

"Manager Zhou is here."

"Manager Chen, how have you been lately?"

Many familiar faces greeted each other. Some were chatting with investors, while others were investors chatting among themselves. Evidently, most of the investors were brought in by the Investment Promotion Bureaus of several districts in the city. Other counties also had some investors, but they were too few.

Ten.

One hundred.

Two hundred.

As more and more people arrived, the front square was almost filled.

This city's investment promotion event was more extensive than previous years, surpassing expectations. The number of investors attending exceeded what Dong Xuebing and his team had anticipated.

These people were potential sources of significant capital.

Just securing one investment could make a substantial impact.

Upon seeing the growing crowd, Zheng Dayou, Chang Juan, and Chen Yunsong rallied their spirits.

Due to the large number of people still arriving and those who had just landed, the investment promotion event was delayed by half an hour. It officially commenced at half-past nine.

The main stage was already set up.

Deputy Mayor Hua Li, in charge of investment promotion, was the first to step up and deliver a welcoming speech to the numerous investors.

After the ceremonial remarks, Deputy Mayor Hua stepped down, and Investment Promotion Bureau Director Lu Weiguo also addressed the audience.

A group of "modestly dressed" women ascended the stage for a dance performance to liven up the atmosphere. With music and entertainment, the city's investment promotion event officially began.

The competition between the various investment promotion bureaus had begun in earnest.

Chapter 1436: Frustration

Morning.

Around nine.

As the investment promotion conference kicked off, the front square of the park turned chaotic. If it weren't for the presence of city leaders, representatives from various investment promotion bureaus would have eagerly rushed to attract investors. Although it's not an absolute rule, most of the time, it's a race to be the first to approach potential investors. Missing the opportunity by a step might result in losing the investment. Everyone knows this, so when it comes to attracting investors, there's no holding back. They don't care about the face of neighboring counties, the opinion of the city's investment promotion bureau, or anything else. A group of investment promotion personnel swarmed around, distributing project brochures.

"Manager Zhou."

"We are here."

"Hey, that's a boss our county contacted. What are you snatching him away?"

"Dear bosses, come to our Yangli County's booth and have a look. We guarantee you'll gain something."

"Our Policy in Meiyang District is excellent, and the investment environment is good. Here is a list of projects, all top-notch. Please take a look."

"Come to our booth."

"Mr. Li, this project is suitable for your company."

"Hey, don't push, don't push. What are you doing?"

It became chaotic. Although there were over two hundred investors, most came with several people from one company. Some wealthy bosses even brought an investment inspection team. When you count it, there are probably only dozens of companies. With more wolves than meat, everyone started to fight. At this point, the advantage of the booth location became apparent. The booths closer to the main stage and the park entrance had investors in front of them. They didn't need to say anything; investors actively approached to view project brochures and listen to the investment promotion staff from that county or district. For other booths slightly further away, it was still manageable. At least, after running a few steps, you could see an investor, and pulling them over was relatively easy. Now, looking at the situation of Zhen Shui County, it was too far away. Not to mention, running a few steps, you couldn't even see an investor within a hundred meters. Even if you did see one, they had probably already been taken by the investment promotion staff from other counties. Not a single one was captured.

"What"

"Mayor Dong."

"What should we do?"

"How can we go on like this?"

Other booths were lively.

Only Zhen Shui County's booth was cold and empty, with no one around.

Zheng Dayou, Chen Yunsong, Gong Na, and others were anxious, watching investors being taken away individually. Although it's uncertain whether they would invest, they had already lost the initiative. Moreover, their county hadn't even contacted a single investor. This sentenced them to death.

Dong Xuebing frowned. He didn't expect the scene to be so chaotic, completely different from the investment promotion conferences he had participated in before. Well, conditions are better in other provinces and cities, with a relaxed economic environment, making them naturally attractive places for investment. The basic situation is there for everyone to see. Sometimes, they don't need to promote themselves; investors come to them. Some popular projects even require a bidding war among several investors. But in Meihe City, it's too remote. Not to mention a small population, the resource environment is also extremely harsh. This is not about them choosing investors; it's about investors choosing them. One is passive, and the other is active, which is also the fundamental reason for the current situation.

These guys

They think it's a supermarket offering discounts and promotions.

Dong Xuebing squinted his eyes, feeling a bit restless. "Everyone, take the promotional materials from Zhen Shui County. Xiao Gong, go to the park entrance. There must be investors who have just arrived or are about to arrive. Distribute the project brochures and introduce our county's projects to them. If possible, bring them to the booth. Both Xiao Chen and Sister Chang go to the front square to distribute project brochures to investors. Ensure that at least seventy percent of the investors get our project brochures. Even if other counties take away some investors, it doesn't matter. Just give them the brochures. Director Zheng, I'll go out to check. You stay at the booth. Report to me if there's any situation or progress."

"Alright."

"Got it."

"We'll go now."

Chen Yunsong and Gong Na immediately took action.

Dong Xuebing looked at the chaotic scene and sighed in his heart. This is grassroots work organizing an investment promotion event is like selling houses. It's a bit embarrassing, but there's no choice. Others have already taken the lead. If Dong Xuebing and his team don't join in, they won't get a share of the pie.

Half an hour passed.

An hour passed.

Two hours passed.

In the blink of an eye, it was noon.

People had already taken away some investors from other counties for inspections. The remaining ones included some bosses who went for lunch, and some stayed at the investment promotion event venue. Dong Xuebing noticed they didn't let Zhen Shui County take a break for lunch. Instead, he

went out and bought a few boxed lunches, brought them back, and everyone had lunch at the booth while continuing to work. They were working hard.

Finally, their morning efforts paid off.

Two investors came over holding brochures from their county, asking about the projects. Chen Yunsong immediately started enthusiastically introducing them, and eventually, they agreed to inspect in the afternoon. This was considered their first achievement. So, Zheng Dayou quickly contacted Cheng Yujie from Zhen Shui County. They would send Old Wei to accompany the investors, and Xiao Hong and Cheng Yujie's team would be responsible for receiving and guiding them during the inspection.

However, an unexpected event occurred just as things were settling down and they were about to call Old Wei to send the investors.

Not far away, the City Investment Promotion Bureau director, Lu Weiguo, casually walked over, seeming to know the two investors. He greeted them with a smile.

"Oh, Director Lu."

"Manager Li, Boss Zhao."

"We were looking for you just now."

"I was busy just now, and I didn't have time." Lu Weiguo checked his watch and said to them, "Let's go, it's also lunchtime. Let's have a meal together. The places are all arranged. We'll eat in the city. You can also try our city's specialties."

Boss Zhao hesitated, "We were just about to inspect Zhen Shui County."

Lu Weiguo said, "Ah, no rush. Let's eat first. The places are all arranged, just eat in the city. You can also try our city's specialties."

The two investors looked at each other. "Okay, let's do that."

Dong Xuebing wasn't pleased when he saw this. "Director Lu."

"Hmm." Lu Weiguo looked at him. "Mayor Dong, right?"

Dong Xuebing spoke firmly, "We've already made arrangements here. The cars are waiting outside. Let the two bosses go to our county for a meal. Our local dishes are excellent."

Lu Weiguo frowned, "It would take at least an hour to get to your county. It's already afternoon, and we've missed lunchtime. A little delay won't hurt."

Dong Xuebing squinted his eyes.

Zheng Dayou offered a compromise, "How about letting Xiao Gong go with Manager Li and Boss Zhao? It'll be helpful to introduce the specific details of the projects to the investors. After lunch, Xiao Gong can arrange for them to inspect our county."

Boss Zhao said, "That works."

Manager Li added, "Alright, let's go."

Zheng Dayou signaled to Gong Na.

Gong Na understood and immediately followed them.

The place where investors eat is already decided. It's those two restaurants. There must be other county investment promotion staff inside. So, Zheng Dayou was afraid that the two hard-won investors would be snatched away halfway, so he had Gong Na follow them.

The two investors and Gong Na walked ahead.

Lu Weiguo stopped momentarily, looking at Dong Xuebing and Zheng Dayou.

Dong Xuebing dared to scold even the Deputy City Mayor. Naturally, he wouldn't give him face. He also gave Lu Weiguo a look. This was the first time he dealt with Lu Weiguo. From the beginning, he could tell that something was wrong with Lu Weiguo's attitude. Now, with an explosive look in his eyes, Dong Xuebing was sure that this was not just about notifying them before the booth's location. It was a deliberate move by Hua Li and Lu Weiguo against Zhen Shui County.

Or maybe it was against Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing despised people like this the most. He hadn't offended them at all. After his wife had an accident in Cheng Gang County, Dong Xuebing aimed to get an explanation. What did he do when Deputy Mayor Huali blatantly sided with Cheng Gang County, pressuring Dong Xuebing? Instead of reflecting on his actions, Huali intensified his efforts, and now this Investment Promotion Bureau Director Lu Weiguo was even more excessive. Dong Xuebing had never met or had conflicts with him but took the initiative to lead investors away for lunch. What's the meaning of this? Is this intentional? Is it deliberate?

The people were gone.

Dong Xuebing retracted his gaze from their backs, said nothing, and walked back to the booth to continue eating the half-cold boxed lunch.

Chen Yunsong and Chang Juan didn't take it seriously either. After lunch, they continued to distribute project brochures.

But even though they didn't take it seriously, trouble again found its way to them.

At around 1.30 pm, Gong Na hurriedly ran from the park entrance to the Zhen Shui County booth.

"Mayor Dong, Director Zheng."

"Xiao Gong, why are you back?"

"They, they"

"What happened? Tell us slowly."

Gong Na was annoyed. "After lunch, Manager Li and Boss Zhao went to the restroom. So, I had Old Wei drive and wait for them at the restaurant entrance, thinking of sending the two investors to our county. But I waited a long time, and they finally changed their minds at the last minute. They said they wouldn't go to our county."

Chen Yunsong was stunned. "What?"

Zheng Dayou was also angry, "Snatched away?"

"I inquired, and they went to Meiyang District, not far to the north," Gong Na said indignantly. "Moreover, from the tone of the two investors, it seems like Director Lu Weiguo had a hand in it. It sounds like Lu Weiguo said our Zhen Shui County's investment environment is not good and recommended Meiyang District to them."

Chang Juan's face turned dark as she listened. "What does this mean? We worked hard for half a day, and with just one word from Lu Weiguo, he drove the investors away. Isn't this fair competition? In a fair competition, everyone should rely on their abilities. Why does this guy surnamed Lu interfere? Does he have the right to meddle like this? Oh, Meiyang District is treated like a biological mother, and our Zhen Shui County is treated like a stepmother. Ridiculous!"

No wonder Chang Juan was angry.

Everyone felt frustrated with this situation.

Chapter 1437: First day of the Investment Promotion Fair Ended

Too much bullying! As the Director of the Municipal Investment Promotion Bureau, how can you, Lu Weiguo, be so biased?

Chang Juan was no longer holding back her words. Even Zheng Dayou joined in with a curse. At a lower level, Chen Yunsong and Gong Na dared not use foul language, but the frustration on their faces was evident. In this matter, Lu Weiguo's actions were simply unacceptable.

"Mayor Dong."

"Let's report this to the higher-ups."

"The City Investment Promotion Bureau is already at the top. Where else can we report?"

Everyone murmured and discussed countermeasures.

Dong Xuebing had been patient initially because he didn't want to stir up trouble. At least for a while, he wanted to avoid the limelight. Therefore, he controlled his temper and did not clash with the City Investment Promotion Bureau. But hearing that Lu Weiguo, as the head of investment promotion, was undermining their efforts to attract investment in Zhen Shui County, it went beyond Dong Xuebing's tolerance. Now, thinking about Lu Weiguo's provocative look at the end, it was clear that he intended to curry favor with the city by targeting Zhen Shui County.

First, it was against us, and now, it's sucking up to the higher-ups by targeting us.

You're fucking daydreaming!

Following Hua Li, Dong Xuebing also included Lu Weiguo in his blacklist. "Let's not talk about it for now. Let's continue our work in the afternoon."

Everyone had no choice but to continue approaching potential investors with lingering frustration.

"Director Zheng." Suddenly, a middle-aged man passed by their booth. Upon seeing Zheng Dayou, he stopped and greeted him.

Zheng Dayou glanced at him. "Director Chen."

Chen Mingming smiled. "How's the progress today?"

"What do you think?" Zheng Dayou replied indifferently.

Chen Mingming smiled and said, "Sorry, I just heard that two investors who were supposed to visit your county went to our district. Our people didn't snatch them; it should be the investors' decision. Old Zheng, don't hold a grudge, okay?"

Zheng Dayou said nonchalantly, "Do I look so petty to you?"

"Hehe, that's good then." Chen Mingming said.

The two seemed old acquaintances, but their relationship didn't seem very good.

Dong Xuebing frowned. He didn't know Chen Mingming, so he asked Chen Yunsong next to him, "Xiao Chen, who is this?"

Another person approached from the side.

"Old Zheng, old Chen, having a chat?" It was a middle-aged woman in her forties with a perm and neatly arranged hair.

Dong Xuebing asked, "Who is this?"

Chen Yunsong whispered, "She is Ma Yanfen, the Director of the Investment Promotion Bureau in Yangling County."

Dong Xuebing nodded. With a higher rank than Ma Yanfen, he didn't take the initiative to engage with them. Instead, he sat there with crossed legs, smoking and reading a newspaper.

Ma Yanfen grinned, "Old Zheng, not looking good today. Didn't harvest much?"

Zheng Dayou chuckled, "How about you? Looks like things aren't going much better on your side either."

Chen Mingming looked at Ma Yanfen and said, "Director Ma, you excelled at last year's investment promotion meeting. Why does it seem so ordinary this year?"

Ma Yanfen twitched her eyes, "Many investors we contacted went directly to our county for inspection. We even signed several letters of intent."

Zheng Dayou commented, "Those are probably intentions obtained before the New Year. That can also be considered achievements during the investment promotion meeting."

Ma Yanfen exclaimed, "Whether it counts or not doesn't matter. As long as we secure the investment, your side seems a bit desolate, Old Zheng."

Chen Mingming laughed, "Indeed, it's quite refreshing here. Being close to the foot of the mountain, the booths in front of us are scorching hot. It's not as comfortable as Old Zheng's place."

Zheng Dayou looked at him, "How about we switch?"

Chen Mingming chuckled, "Forget it. I'm afraid of the cold, and I prefer warmth."

The three had a subtle relationship, seemingly old acquaintances who would mock each other. According to their conversation, whether it was Yangling County or Meiyang District, the annual investment promotion quotas far exceeded that of Zhen Shui County, possibly several times more. No wonder Zheng Dayou couldn't muster any confidence. Achievements were there; no matter what was said, it was futile. To turn things around and gain confidence, they needed some results.

An hour passed, three hours passed, and five hours passed.

As evening approached, the first day of the investment promotion meeting officially concluded. Since it was a special day, Hua Li came over again, sat on the main stage, and gave a brief speech.

Lu Weiguo was naturally present. However, to the surprise of many, he announced an intent letter signed by Meiyang District, almost like a formal contract. Chen Mingming, with a smiling face, went on stage to shake hands with the investors and sign the agreement. A large Industrial and Commercial Bank of China check was handed to them by the investors. The check was naturally fake, just for show, but its amount was not fake.

Eight million RMB.

Meiyang District had attracted eight million RMB worth of investment on the first day.

Clicking sounds of cameras taking pictures echoed, and a few people finally stepped off the stage.

But Lu Weiguo wasn't finished yet. He announced several agreements with an intent of over two million in investment, and Yangling County and Cheng Gang County were listed. These agreements were likely prearranged but signed during the investment promotion meeting to boost the morale of their counties.

Regardless, they had secured investments.

Even if no contracts were signed, they obtained letters of intent at least.

In contrast, Zhen Shui County hadn't achieved anything. They hadn't signed any contracts or even attracted investors interested in visiting.

After Lu Weiguo's announcements, he smiled and left.

Hua Li nodded to him and waved him over. The two of them smiled and began a conversation.

People in the Investment Promotion Bureau were all familiar with each other. Several cadres who knew each other exchanged glances. Of all the counties and districts in Meihuo City, only Zhen Shui County had nothing to show. So, peculiar and gloating eyes turned to Dong Xuebing, Zheng Dayou, and their team.

Bottom of the list again.

Zhen Shui County was at the bottom again.

Zheng Dayou felt slightly embarrassed, and Chen Yunsong and Gong Na were also losing face. The scrutinizing gazes were too much to bear.

However, none of the people from Zhen Shui County were willing to accept this. It was biased treatment. If they were given a decent booth, if Lu Weiguo hadn't interfered, if the city hadn't undermined them, maybe they could have secured at least one letter of intent by now.

Chapter 1438: Minor Clash

Saturday.

Evening.

The sky slowly darkened.

The investors, city leaders, and officials dispersed, and the staff from various counties' investment promotion departments naturally packed up their booths and left the park. After concluding the first

day of the investment promotion conference, the people from Zhen Shui County had dinner at the restaurant designated by the city. Afterward, they headed to the hotel booked for their stay in the city. Zhen Shui County is considered the poorest county in Meihuo City, and the economic situation of Meihuo City is also the worst in the province. Naturally, the hotel was just average, and it was probably one of the better hotels in the entire city.

Inside.

The hotel had over a dozen floors, and the people from Zhen Shui County were placed on the fourth floor.

After getting room keys from the front desk, Dong Xuebing discovered that everyone except himself had standard rooms. As were Chang Juan and Gong Na, Zheng Dayou and Chen Yunsong were placed together in one room. Considering the economic situation of the city and the shortage of rooms due to the many investors present, this was understandable. Everyone was accommodating each other. However, when going upstairs, Dong Xuebing noticed that the Director of the Investment Promotion Bureau of Yangli County, Ma Yanfen, and the Director of the Investment Promotion Bureau of Meiyang District, Chen Mingming, each had their executive suite. This made the people from Zhen Shui County feel unbalanced again.

What's the meaning of this?

Repeatedly targeting us.

"Oh, Old Zheng is back."

"Shall we have dinner together tonight?"

"Oh, you've all finished eating, then forget it."

It seemed like the heads of the investment promotion bureaus had made some kind of arrangement. They came out of their rooms and waited in the hallway. After a while, a few other officials from different counties' investment promotion bureaus came out of the executive suites at the end of the fourth floor. Some were top-level officials, and some were second in command. The fourth floor was quite long, and basically, all the officials from the investment promotion bureaus lived on this floor, mostly in individual rooms. Finding a setup like Zhen Shui County, where the head and a staff member shared a room, was impossible. This arrangement seemed a bit much.

"Hey, Director Ma."

"Director Sun is here too."

"Director Chen went to dinner. You guys have made a scene today."

"Hey, I was lucky. Plus, our district has indeed had several excellent projects recently."

"Director Zheng, how come Zhen Shui County hasn't secured a single deal yet? You should have been prepared beforehand. I remember your performance was decent last year."

"Director Zheng is modest."

"Yeah, maybe they are waiting until the last day of the conference to reveal something."

Everyone gathered and immediately engaged in a conversation filled with tension and gunpowder. Zhen Shui County had achieved nothing today and instantly became the object of everyone's

mockery and schadenfreude. After ridiculing Zhen Shui County, the leaders of several other counties, who had experienced friction before, also started mocking each other.

As they talked, Lu Weiguo, the City Investment Promotion Bureau Director, walked over. Seeing everyone there, he immediately clapped his hands to get their attention. "Everyone's here."

Seeing him, Dong Xuebing's eyes turned cold, and he didn't move.

Chen Mingming smiled and said, "Director Lu, we were discussing going to dinner."

Lu Weiguo nodded, "I haven't eaten either. Let's book a private room downstairs. All the heads of the investment promotion bureaus from various counties will attend, and we'll have a meeting."

"Okay."

"Sounds good."

"Director Lao, you guys go ahead and eat first."

Each director left with their deputy and staff.

Lu Weiguo looked around, "A few more people are not here."

"Old Sun and Old Xu aren't here, right? I'll call them." Someone said.

While he made the call, everyone continued chatting together. With Director Lu present, the conversation became much more cordial.

Dong Xuebing glanced at Lu Weiguo. Just then, Lu Weiguo also noticed Dong Xuebing and the people from Zhen Shui County. However, Lu Weiguo didn't say anything. He glanced and then gave an order to his subordinate, seemingly instructing them to book the private room downstairs. He didn't speak, but Dong Xuebing went forward.

"Director Lu." Dong Xuebing's eyes narrowed. The more he interacted with Huilan, the more he picked up her habits.

Lu Weiguo looked at him, "Mayor Dong."

Mayor Dong?

Many people who didn't recognize Dong Xuebing were stunned. They had been talking to Zheng Dayou and hadn't paid much attention to Dong Xuebing. They even thought this young guy was a Zhen Shui County Investment Promotion Bureau staff member. Who would have thought that he was a Mayor? Apart from Director Lu, he held the highest position in the room.

Which Mayor was he?

Is he the Deputy County Mayor?

Wait a minute, is it Dong Xuebing from Zhen Shui County?

In the months since Dong Xuebing took office, he has caused quite a stir in Zhen Shui County, significantly impacted Cheng Gang County, and even gained a notorious reputation in the city. They naturally heard about it from neighboring county or city officials, even if not extensively. There are hardly any secrets in government offices, so everyone figured it out when they heard Director Lu address him as Mayor Dong. Some had already recognized Dong Xuebing and gave him a few glances. Recently, the person making the most waves in the city was undoubtedly Dong Xuebing.

He brought in a 50 million RMB grant from the central finance department, causing a political shake-up in Zhen Shui County and reshuffling the alignment of factions among the county officials. This even led to the suspension of Wei Lin, the director of the city's finance bureau, and his falling off a building, which alarmed the city Party secretary and Mayor. In this situation, how could there be officials who hadn't heard of Dong Xuebing? Everyone knew him.

This was Dong Xuebing, who was currently in the spotlight.

But why does he seem so ordinary? Nothing special at all.

He had an average appearance, temperament, and such a young age everything about him seemed average. This contradicted the impressions people had of him.

However, it must be correct since Director Lu addressed him this way.

"Mayor Dong, is there something?" Lu Weiguo asked, looking at him.

Dong Xuebing, who had reached his limit, didn't want to endure it any longer. They treated him as if Dong Xuebing were a sick cat just because he stayed low-key for a while.

A joke!

They should find out a bit.

"I've never been afraid of anyone from childhood till now. Whoever the hell loves it," thought Dong Xuebing.

But Dong Xuebing had no intention of physically confronting anyone. There was no need to resort to violence to resolve such conflicts; he had many other ways to annoy people.

Dong Xuebing looked at Lu Weiguo and said, "Director Lu, is there a problem with the room allocation? How come the heads and deputy heads of the investment promotion bureaus from other counties all have single rooms, except for us from Zhen Shui County? Director Zheng is an old comrade, and the transfer of Director Chang has also been approved. How come they are not allocated to single rooms?"

Only Dong Xuebing dared to ask such a question.

When he wanted to be aggressive, he didn't care much about hierarchical concepts.

Lu Weiguo calmly responded, "In several hotels, investors almost fully occupy the rooms. Room allocation is a bit tight, but we can do nothing. You'll have to make do."

Dong Xuebing did not back down at all. "Why don't others have to make do, and only Zhen Shui County has to? Director Lu, this doesn't seem fair."

Lu Weiguo said, "All the rooms are full now, even the suites are booked. If they don't have any, what can we do? I admit that there may be some grievances for the comrades from Zhen Shui County, but you also need to consider the overall situation of our city."

"What about the exhibition booths?" Dong Xuebing asked.

Lu Weiguo replied, "The front square is full, so we must move some to the back. Sacrifices have to be made."

"Oh, and once again, Zhen Shui County is the only one sacrificing. It has nothing to do with others," Dong Xuebing said sarcastically.

Everything good is for others and has nothing to do with us. But when there are sacrifices, it's all ours. Still, they ask us to prioritize the overall situation.

Screw the overall situation.

No matter how you put it, it's all on you.

Chang Juan and Chen Yunsong were also getting irritated.

Later, an official from the city's investment promotion bureau couldn't stand it anymore and interrupted, "It's not targeting you, but the investment promotion results of Zhen Shui County are indeed not as good as those of other counties. On today's first day of the investment promotion conference, each county has received investments or letters of intent. But what about Zhen Shui County? We informed you about the conference in advance. Why didn't you even do any preparatory work? Where are your results?"

Results?

Still talking to us about results?

We've already brought in investors today, and they're ready for inspections. But what about you? Director Lu, as soon as we bring in investors, your city's investment promotion bureau interferes and causes trouble. How can we achieve any results? Forget about us; any country in our situation would fail to produce results. The position of the head of the city's investment promotion bureau is there. If you say a word, the investors will naturally lean towards you. Strictly speaking, this is an abuse of power and settling personal grievances.

As they spoke, the atmosphere became increasingly tense, and it seemed like they were about to quarrel.

Chang Juan, who usually seemed ordinary, turned out to be someone who, when angry, dared to confront even higher-ups. She had a temper not much different from Dong Xuebing's. She was a woman who grew up at the foot of the imperial city and dared to kick even leaders in their nuts when things got serious. This time, seeing that even Chang Juan was unwilling to tolerate it, she started arguing with the person from the city's investment promotion bureau.

Chang Juan stared and said, "Talking about results?"

The person looked at her and said, "If there are no results, then what should we talk about?"

"Then, if we talk about results, it should be last year's results. Although our county's investment promotion quota wasn't large last year, it was still okay. The booth and accommodation were arranged beforehand. So, tell me, what standards are you using? What are your criteria? Are they decided on the day of the event? What kind of standards are you following?"

Chang Juan scolded the small official from the city's investment promotion bureau so fiercely that he couldn't get a word in edgewise.

Gong Na secretly gave Chang Juan a thumbs-up.

Zheng Dayou and Chen Yunsong blinked and looked at Chang Juan. They couldn't help but wonder, are people from the capital all so good at talking?

Dong Xuebing is.

Now Director Chang is also

Chapter 1439: I want all the Presidential Suites

Evening.

Hotel.

Fourth-floor corridor.

Dong Xuebing and Lu Weiguo were arguing with cold words.

Chang Juan was arguing with a leader from the City Investment Promotion Bureau. Most of the time, it wasn't an argument because it was just Chang Juan talking, and the cadre seemed not as proficient in rhetoric as Dong Xuebing and Chang Juan. Lu Weiguo gradually seemed to lose the argument with Dong Xuebing. Firstly, Dong Xuebing was quite eloquent, and secondly, this time, the city was indeed on the wrong side; the oppression against Zhen Shui County was too obvious, and even outsiders could see it.

On the other side.

With Dong Xuebing Lu Weiguo and others talking, the heads of other counties' investment promotion bureaus also roughly understood what was happening. After a little thought, it made sense. The city had given Zhen Shui County the worst exhibition stand and the worst accommodation; this was already a signal. However, they didn't express any sympathy for Zhen Shui County because, in the end, they were competitors. The city's attitude towards Zhen Shui County might be biased, but they were not sympathetic. Most people were still on Dong Xuebing, curious to see what this legendary guy could do.

In short, they were just here for the show.

But this argument didn't escalate into a real fight.

After a while, the person who had gone to make a phone call finished, "Director Lu, Director Sun is having dinner downstairs, and Director Xu is still outside with the investors. It may take a while for them to return."

Lu Weiguo said, "Let him come over as soon as possible."

The person said, "I told him."

"Alright, let's go downstairs." After saying that, Lu Weiguo looked at Dong Xuebing for the last time. "The issue of the rooms stops here. If you can understand the city's situation, that's the best. If you can't, you can't. Just understand that all the rooms are full, and there's not even one extra." After that, he ignored him.

The Municipal Investment Promotion Bureau leader glanced at Chang Juan and snorted but said nothing more.

Lu Weiguo led all the county investment promotion bureaus, and everyone naturally said nothing more. He walked in front, and they followed him.

Zheng Dayou looked at Dong Xuebing with questioning eyes. The city's attitude was clear, and he didn't know what to do now. How could they endure this? Moreover, a hard target of fifty million

yuan was sitting there; if they endured, they wouldn't be able to secure a single penny of investment. But if they didn't endure, what could they do? Scolding them wouldn't help, and besides, Lu Weiguo was followed by city leaders. This was the city's investment promotion conference; they couldn't be too unruly.

Chang Juan and Gong Na looked at Dong Xuebing as well.

Everyone felt aggrieved and was waiting for Mayor Dong to decide.

Dong Xuebing looked at Lu Weiguo and the heads of the investment promotion bureaus from other counties, his tone becoming serious. Suddenly, he said, "Let's go."

"Yes."

"Where are we going, Mayor Dong?"

"Downstairs."

After saying that, Dong Xuebing headed towards the elevator.

Zheng Dayou and the others looked at each other and had to follow.

There were two elevators, and Lu Weiguo and others were also waiting there. They looked at Dong Xuebing and the others, but no one said anything.

Ding.

The elevator arrived.

People gradually got on and sat down to go downstairs.

The two elevators happened to accommodate everyone. Dong Xuebing, who was close, pressed the button for the 2nd floor. The private room Lu Weiguo and others booked for dining were also on the 1st floor.

The elevator doors opened, and everyone got off.

Zheng Dayou and the others didn't understand why Mayor Dong was going down a floor. Was he leaving this place? But there were investors here; it was an excellent opportunity. Leaving meant missing the chance to interact with investors. Even if the city treated Zhen Shui County differently, Zheng Dayou and the others didn't consider leaving. The interests were there, and they had no choice but to endure it.

"Mayor Dong, what are we doing?" Zheng Dayou asked from behind, "Is it fine for Xiao Chen and me to share a room? President Chang should be able to manage as well, after all"

Dong Xuebing turned around and said, "I can manage, but since you came with me, I can't let you manage."

Lu Weiguo and the heads of other investment promotion bureaus also walked in that direction. Watching Dong Xuebing and others in front, they were puzzled, not understanding what these people were up to.

Front desk.

Dong Xuebing arrived.

The female staff at the front desk looked at him, "Hello, is there anything you need assistance with?"

Dong Xuebing said, "How many rooms does our hotel have left? Any room will do, preferably on the fourth floor."

The female staff smiled bitterly, "I'm sorry, forget about the fourth floor; the entire hotel is full now."

Dong Xuebing frowned, "Not even one left?"

"None. All booked for the investment promotion conference," she said.

Lu Weiguo and others thought Dong Xuebing and the others were up to something. It turned out they were asking about rooms. Lu Weiguo had already clarified that the hotel couldn't have any available rooms. They just didn't believe it. Lu Weiguo consciously slowed and looked at Dong Xuebing and others sideways.

However, Dong Xuebing spoke again the next moment, "If there are no other rooms, how about the presidential suites?"

The female staff was taken aback, "Those are available."

"No one has reserved them?"

"No."

The investors who came to Meihe City were small business owners. Large investors wouldn't choose this place, so it was mostly companies with assets around ten million or even small companies in the millions. Although the city had shortcomings, the presidential suite, the highest configuration in the hotel, was quite expensive. It costs eight thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight RMB per day. Investors couldn't afford to stay in it, and the county couldn't afford to foot the bill for the presidential suite for certain investors. It was just too expensive, and the county couldn't bear it.

Dong Xuebing said, "How many are available?"

The female staff hadn't checked, "There are six available presidential suites, all empty."

Dong Xuebing directly slammed his bank card on the counter, "Okay, I'll book all the presidential suites."

The female staff was dumbfounded, "All booked? Uh, sorry, how many days are you booking?"

"Book each room for ten days."

"One room is 8888 yuan, ten days is 88,000 yuan, and six rooms are about 500,000 yuan. We have a rule: we must collect a deposit of 500,000 yuan first. If you're sure you want to book for ten days, we won't refund you if you check out early. I need to inform you of this first."

Dong Xuebing didn't even listen, "Just swipe the card."

"Ah, um, okay." The female staff looked at him in astonishment and quickly began the procedure to check them in. "Please provide your ID."

"Mayor Dong."

"What are you doing?"

"We only need one or two rooms out of the six."

Zheng Dayou and Chen Yunsong were also bewildered. The presidential suite had many rooms.

But in front of Lu Weiguo and others, Dong Xuebing loudly said, "Tell Driver Old Wei to come and bring his ID. Each person gets one presidential suite."

Chapter 1440: This Zhen Shui County

Six presidential suites.

All booked.

One for each person.

Even the driver gets his own room.

Dong Xuebing intentionally raised his voice in the hotel lobby, and Lu Weiguo and the heads of various district and county investment promotion bureaus behind heard him.

Upon hearing this, everyone almost cursed.

Lu Weiguo and the others were also a bit dumbfounded.

In the lobby, many people were shocked by Dong Xuebing's extravagance. For a moment, dozens of eyes turned to the people from Zhen Shui County. Most of them were office workers present, and they naturally knew the salary levels of Meihe City's government officials. A presidential suite cost 8,888 RMB per day. Booking six rooms until the end of next week's investment promotion conference would cost over 500,000 RMB or even more. Not to mention ordinary clerks, office workers, or even regular small officials. Even for Lu Weiguo, a director-level official, 500,000 or 600,000 RMB was almost equivalent to his ten years of salary. Yes, a fixed salary without additional benefits for ten years. What kind of concept was this? If it were the lowest-level staff in the office, this was almost equivalent to their twenty years of salary. Even most investors there couldn't afford or were reluctant to stay in the presidential suite.

As for the people from Zhen Shui County, Deputy Mayor Dong, who received a fixed salary from the office, was spending so lavishly. A Deputy Mayor who earned a fixed salary from the office was even more extravagant than businessmen.

Are you crazy? One room is enough for all of you. That's a presidential suite with several rooms. But you've booked six!

This is a slap in the face, hitting the face of the City Investment Promotion Bureau, hitting the faces of Lu Weiguo and others.

Lu Weiguo's face darkened. Many people also realized that the heads of the investment promotion bureaus in the districts and counties behind them looked at Dong Xuebing deeply. They were experiencing Dong Xuebing's working style for the first time, so it is no wonder the rumors said he was mysterious. No wonder a small Deputy Mayor could alarm the City Party Secretary and Mayor and even offend them. Sure enough, this was a person who acted without following the usual conventions. Just as Director Lu Weiguo said there were no rooms available in the hotel and urged them to endure it for the overall situation, they immediately booked six presidential suites.

This was unscrupulous.

No one was as nauseating as you.

Zheng Dayou and Chen Yunsong also felt a bit awkward. It didn't seem appropriate.

Only Chang Juan felt quite satisfied. She slapped her ID card on the front desk with a loud noise, placing it next to Dong Xuebing's ID card for the staff to register.

Things had come to this point. The feud was completely settled.

After hesitation, Zheng Dayou also took out his ID card, letting it go.

Seeing the leaders had decided, Chen Yunsong no longer thought too much about it. If the sky collapsed, a tall guy would be holding it up. He wasn't afraid anymore. Instead, he looked at the expressions of Lu Weiguo and other county and district investment promotion bureau directors and felt quite relieved. He immediately went out to call Driver Old Wei.

"Brother Wei, hurry and come over."

"What's going on?"

"You'll know when you come."

"What is this for?"

"Make sure you bring your ID for hotel registration."

"Ah, I'm not staying here. I don't need it. I'll return to Zhen Shui County tonight."

"Mayor Dong has booked presidential suites. One for each person."

Upon hearing this, Old Wei was also dumbfounded. What on earth were they doing with the presidential suites?

Gong Na also handed over her identification.

The front desk female staff looked at them, then glanced cautiously at the grim-faced Lu Weiguo and others behind them, coughed, and accepted their ID cards for registration. One person then assigned a presidential suite for each of them. The female staff had worked at the hotel for three or four years and had never seen such extravagance, especially from a government official. It was simply unbelievable.

The procedures were quickly completed.

Five hundred thousand RMB was debited from Dong Xuebing's bank card.

The female staff immediately said, "If you need a receipt, we can issue it now."

"No need for a receipt," Dong Xuebing said indifferently.

The female staff said, "Ah, such a large deposit and you should also get an invoice."

Dong Xuebing said, "No need for an invoice, just give us the room cards."

Dong Xuebing usually obtained an invoice when he dined at a restaurant or stayed at a hotel. However, this time, he didn't, indicating his intention in advance. It wasn't to show off; Dong Xuebing deliberately let others know that Zhen Shui County didn't reimburse this money, nor was it

a case of wasting public funds. All this money was coming from Dong Xuebing's pocket. Therefore, he could spend it as he pleased, and others had no right to interfere. Dong Xuebing wanted to silence everyone by making this clear.

Not reimbursed.

Spending his own money.

This was over 500,000 RMB.

Many people took a deep breath, thinking, "How much money can you spend? Over 500,000 RMB is probably your ten years salary!"

Chen Mingming, the director of the Investment Promotion Bureau of Mei Yang District, sneered inwardly. He thought the leader from Zhen Shui County was acting like a big shot, but when he saw Dong Xuebing put his wallet into his pocket and took out a Land Rover car key, Chen Mingming was slightly surprised. His sneer subsided because that top-of-the-line Land Rover parked at the entrance was Dong Xuebing's car.

Land Rover.

How could Zhen Shui County's finances afford a Land Rover as an official vehicle?

This Land Rover Range Rover parked at the entrance was Dong Xuebing's private car.

Lu Weiguo remained silent. He probably knew that the Land Rover belonged to Dong Xuebing. After all, Dong Xuebing had driven this car to the city last time to ask for money.

However, others were unaware.

Dong Xuebing had never driven the car into the investment promotion conference before. He hadn't met many people on his way back, so many people were still unaware. But when they saw the car key, they belatedly thought about it. That Land Rover was indeed very conspicuous. Among the many Mercedes-Benz and BMW cars that came with the investors, that Land Rover Range Rover was the most expensive. Dong Xuebing seemed to be a mysterious figure, but they didn't know that he was a county leader with a personal wealth of tens of millions or even over a hundred million RMB. Fifty thousand RMB was nothing to him; it wasn't even enough to cover the interest on his bank fixed deposit.

Five hundred thousand RMB.

Just to annoy the unfair room allocation of the City Investment Promotion Bureau.

This was incredible to others because it was too exaggerated. Dong Xuebing's thoughts were beyond their comprehension. However, the people from Zhen Shui County understood, and Zheng Dayou, Gong Na, and others also understood. When Dong Xuebing first came, the Land Rover had caused a huge sensation in the county. In the end, no one from the discipline inspection commission investigated him because Dong Xuebing had declared his assets and provided legal proof for his property. Mayor Dong was worth tens of millions, or even hundreds of millions. Fifty thousand RMB, to be blunt, might be the entire family's wealth for others. It was a huge sum of money. However, for Dong Xuebing, fifty thousand RMB couldn't even be considered the interest on a bank fixed deposit. It was like a drop in the ocean.

Moreover, Dong Xuebing's personality was such that, even if he had to take out five million RMB, as long as it could annoy those who looked down on Zhen Shui County, Dong Xuebing would not hesitate.

Those who knew Dong Xuebing understood this temperament of his.

After handling the room arrangements, Dong Xuebing handed room cards to Zheng Dayou, Chang Juan, and others. "Old Zheng, if you have a meeting to attend, go ahead. We'll go upstairs first, and when we come back, just find me. We'll have a meeting too." With that, under the gaze of many people, Dong Xuebing turned around and walked towards Lu Weiguo and others. He cheerfully took out a few room cards that the city had booked for them and handed them to the young staff member from the City Investment Promotion Bureau office, who had just argued with Chang Juan. "I know that the city is short of rooms during this investment promotion conference. We, Zhen Shui County, also consider the overall situation. We voluntarily give up these three rooms. Let them be reserved for comrades in need."

The young staff member held the room cards, and his expression was extremely unpleasant.

Dong Xuebing was quite unscrupulous. Seeing the staff member's expression, he continued, "Take it. Don't worry about us. We have a place to stay."

Lu Weiguo was slapped in the face by the people from Zhen Shui County. His face was naturally unsightly. This was undoubtedly another humiliation for him and the City Investment Promotion Bureau.

Arrogant.

Too arrogant.

What a Zhen Shui County.

What a Dong Xuebing.

However, Lu Weiguo couldn't say anything. The people from the county and the district investment promotion bureaus couldn't say anything either. No matter how you put it, it was someone else's money. Since Dong Xuebing dared to casually throw out 500,000 RMB, it meant that he wasn't afraid of anyone investigating. His assets should also be legal income, or perhaps his parents were wealthy. The audacious manner in which he threw out 500,000 RMB also silenced many people for a while. Lu Weiguo felt that his aura and that of the City Investment Promotion Bureau had suddenly diminished by a large margin.

The situation became tense.

A leader said, "Director Lu."

"Let's eat and have a meeting." Lu Weiguo led the group towards the direction of the private dining room, no longer looking at Dong Xuebing and the people from Zhen Shui County. Obviously, they were infuriated by their attitude.

The directors quickly followed.

Chen Mingming glanced at Dong Xuebing.

Ma Yanfen took a look and followed Zheng Dayou, who had also come along.

Lu Weiguo and the City Investment Promotion Bureau were given face-slaps, and the investment promotion bureau staff from other counties and districts felt uncomfortable as well. The reason was simple. On the first day of the investment promotion conference, Zhen Shui County hadn't achieved anything. In the past, the investment promotion results of Zhen Shui County had always been at the bottom in the city. Now, even Lu Weiguo had to stay in an ordinary single room, and the county directors with good performance were staying in single rooms on the fourth floor. Even the clerks and staff were cramming several people into one room. But the people from Zhen Shui County had moved into the presidential suite on the top floor, the best-configured room in the hotel, and even the driver had a room to himself.

The presidential suite was on the top floor, so it literally pressed down on the other county and district investment promotion bureau staff. Initially, they had sneered at Zhen Shui County's accommodation allocation being the worst. Now, it turned out that Zhen Shui County had ascended to the heavens, while they were relegated to the ground.

Who could accept this?

They were all nursing a grudge in their hearts.