

PAW 1451

Chapter 1451: Everybody's shock

The woman is very beautiful.

Mature beauty.

Although she looks in her forties, she exudes a mature charm from head to toe. Her outfit is just right a dark blue casual women's blazer, a white shirt with a lace collar, tight white casual pants, short black stockings, and high heels. It's not an overtly sexy look but rather an enticing charm that seems ingrained in her.

Enchanting eyes.

Sensual face.

Casual demeanor.

Sexy figure.

She captivates everyone the moment she appears.

No one expected that the leader of this group of wealthy foreign investors would be such a flavorful and sexy woman. Judging by the delighted expressions of the other foreigners, it seems like they have a good relationship with her. From their attitudes, it's evident that this woman might have the most assets, perhaps even surpassing them significantly. Otherwise, in the eyes of these businessmen, if you don't have the ability, they wouldn't show such respect. Since the beautiful woman has become their team leader, it's likely that she has surpassed everyone in terms of assets, and there may also be business dealings or cooperation with them. This unexpected revelation surprises the people of Meihe City.

Is this beautiful woman only forty years old?

Could her company's assets have already exceeded a hundred billion?

"Ms. Zhang," the female leader from the province shook hands with the beautiful woman with a smile, "It's great that you're here. I was just halfway through the introductions, and there were many investors I was not very familiar with, plus some language barriers. I'll leave it to you here; I'm heading back."

The beautiful woman smiled, "Are you leaving so soon?"

The female leader said, "I have some urgent matters to attend to."

The beautiful woman said, "If I had known, I wouldn't have let you accompany us. Look at the commotion this has caused. Don't let it affect your work. It's okay; you can go back."

"Hehe, we'll meet again."

"Sure. I'll take care of the remaining introductions."

After informing Hua Li, the provincial leader waved to the provincial staff and left the park.

As soon as she left, Hua Li became the highest-ranking person present.

Hua Li immediately approached and shook hands with the beautiful woman, "Director Zhang, hello. I am Hua Li, the deputy mayor in charge of investment promotion in Meihe City. Welcome, welcome."

The beautiful woman chuckled, "Hello, Mayor Hua."

Hua Li introduced, "This is our Investment Promotion Bureau Director, Lu Weiguo."

The beautiful woman smiled and shook hands with Lu Weiguo, "Hello, Director Lu."

Lu Weiguo admired the beauty and temperament of this woman in his heart. Moreover, without saying much, he could tell that she wasn't one of those Chinese who rarely visited the Republic, as her Mandarin was very standard and even had a hint of a Beijing accent.

The scene fell silent for a moment.

The beautiful woman glanced at everyone present and smiled, "Sorry for being late. I met some old classmates in the provincial capital whom I hadn't seen for many years, so I came a bit late. Please forgive me." After turning her head, she spoke a few words in English to communicate with the foreign investors. Then, she looked at the people from Meihe City and said, "I've just finished introducing Mr. Frank and the others. Now, let me continue introducing the rest." Pausing momentarily, she continued, "Hehe, let me first introduce the youngest person among us. This is Anna, the third shareholder of Cole Group."

Applause erupted.

The foreign girl in her thirties playfully blew a kiss to everyone.

One of the local investment promotion staff also blew a kiss in response, but the next moment, their bureau chief fiercely stared at him, and he shrank back, not daring to say a word.

Everyone laughed good-naturedly, and the tense atmosphere immediately relaxed.

With the arrival of the beautiful woman, the atmosphere here had changed.

"Next is the fourth shareholder of Langwen Group. Let's call him Leiming. By the way, I should mention that the first shareholder is his father. Hehe," the beautiful woman said.

Then, a foreigner also stepped forward and said a few words.

The beautiful woman smiled and translated, "He says our place is beautiful, much better than the western part of the country, although I tricked him into coming. But now he forgives me, haha." The beautiful woman was humorous and articulate, and her use of "our place" immediately brought everyone closer.

Everyone laughed.

The beautiful woman continued, "Next is Reynar, the Chief Investment Advisor of Pengde Corporation."

Three

Five

Ten

The beautiful woman introduced all these people in the blink of an eye.

Her introductions were much more detailed than those of the provincial leader. Whether they were the second or third shareholder, she knew each company's specific business like the back of her hand.

As the people from Meihe City listened, they applauded while inwardly gasping.

Some companies might not have a significant reputation, but many were well-known. The shareholders or investment advisors of these renowned corporate groups stood right before them, creating a dreamlike sensation. The pie that fell into their laps was indeed huge. It's no wonder the provincial leader personally accompanied and escorted the foreign investors despite having urgent matters; these were international companies.

Finally, the beautiful woman said with a smiling face, "Let me introduce myself. I'm Zhang Longjuan. I am the organizer and leader responsible for this investment inspection. Thanks to my partners' and friends' love and support, all affairs and negotiations are entrusted to me. During the inspection, if there's anything, feel free to find me. Although my business is developing in Africa, I was born and raised in the Republic, which is my homeland. I naturally hope to contribute to my homeland if possible, within my capabilities, even though the investment may not be substantial. I hope for pleasant cooperation in the days to come. Well, that's all."

Hua Li applauded enthusiastically.

Lu Weiguo and the others nodded and clapped.

No wonder she was chosen to be in charge among so many big bosses. She not only looked sexy but also had a different level of eloquence.

"My home, my homeland."

What a great statement!

But everyone also understood that, despite what she said, business is still business. Without projects that could attract her, there wouldn't be any investment.

With the introductions complete, Hua Li, Lu Weiguo, and the others began chatting with the beautiful woman and the investors.

With the beautiful woman as the translator, they no longer faced communication barriers, and the atmosphere became pleasant.

Later on, Chen Yunsong sighed, "Director Zhang is very articulate."

Gong Na blinked and said, "Listening to her, it seems she genuinely has investment intentions."

Chen Yunsong said, "She has strong feelings for our Country. Maybe that's why she came back. This time, we might secure some substantial investments."

However, Zheng Dayou was not blindly optimistic. The woman named Zhang Longjuan was indeed competent, but the more capable a person, the more challenging they tend to be to deal with. How could it be that easy? She came all the way just to support the development of impoverished areas? People with such noble intentions were rare.

"Mayor Dong."

""

"Mayor Dong."

Zheng Dayou called him twice.

Dong Xuebing snapped out of his thoughts, "Hmm, what's going on?"

"Do we want to compete?" Zheng Dayou asked.

Many heads of investment promotion bureaus from different counties had already started conversations with the investors. Even if language communication wasn't smooth, they couldn't wait for the beautiful woman to translate every time. After all, there were too many people, and she couldn't translate for everyone. But the early bird catches the worm, and at least they could seize the opportunity. However, Zhen Shui County was left at the end without making any moves. Although they decided to focus on domestic small investors, there was always a chance. What if the other party decided to invest? They still had to give it a try.

However, Dong Xuebing glanced at the beautiful woman and shook his head expressionlessly, "No need. With so many people around, we can't join the excitement."

"But"

"Trust me."

"Uh, alright."

Zhen Shui County didn't approach.

Especially Dong Xuebing, who seemed very calm. He already had a plan in mind.

Meanwhile, Hua Li, Lu Weiguo, and others were already discussing the main topics with the beautiful woman and the investors.

Deputy Mayor Hua looked at her and said, "Director Zhang, have you finalized the itinerary for your inspection this time? If not, we can help recommend some places. Everyone has different project needs. We can provide many suggestions if you specify the type of projects you want to inspect. Let's choose a general direction and focus on it. What do you think?"

The beautiful woman smiled, "No need for that. We want to take a look by ourselves."

"By yourselves?" Deputy Mayor Hua was surprised. "But what about the project introductions? Don't you need"

"It's alright. We'll contact your side if we need someone to accompany us during the inspection. But for now, we don't need it."

Everyone was waiting to hear where they planned to inspect, but unexpectedly, she said this.

Hua Li said, "That's fine, but you should all be first-time visitors to our city, right? It's impossible to know all the directions and locations. We should have some local staff."

The beautiful woman chuckled, "Thanks, Mayor Hua, it's okay. I came to participate in your investment promotion conference as a favor. I have friends here, so I won't get lost."

Hua Li was stunned, "As a favor?"

"Friends," Lu Weiguo blinked suspiciously.

Why did they not know who invited such a large group of foreign investors?

Then, the beautiful woman looked at the crowd behind her, smiled, and exclaimed, "My friend is also present. With so many people, I didn't see him just now." After that, she waved in that direction.

Zheng Dayou wondered, "Why does it seem like she's waving to us?"

Gong Na was also puzzled, "It looks like it. Who is she calling?"

Then, to everyone's astonishment, Dong Xuebing walked up with a wry smile, "Ms. Zhang."

"Mayor Dong, haha." The beautiful woman took a few steps as if she wanted to shake hands with Dong Xuebing. However, she gave him a polite hug instead.

Everyone stared in shock.

Chapter 1452: Zhen Shui County's Turnaround

Morning.

Front square of the park.

People are densely packed, surrounding the area.

Amid the astonished gazes of all city leaders and attending investment personnel, Dong Xuebing, wearing an embarrassed expression, was unexpectedly embraced by Zhang Longjuan, who walked towards him. His right hand, extended for a handshake, paused midway, almost poking into Zhang Longjuan's abdomen. He had to navigate around her voluptuous figure in a blue casual waistcoat. Helplessly, Dong Xuebing had to reciprocate the hug, coughing awkwardly and placing his hand on Zhang Longjuan's back. In doing so, his palm accidentally touched the clasp of her bra beneath the suit, feeling the fine and narrow texture. It seemed like the scent of lingerie, adding to Dong Xuebing's embarrassment.

This Zhang Longjuan, silently bringing so many people along, now suddenly hugged him. She always launched sudden attacks, leaving Dong Xuebing caught off guard.

"Ha, missed me?"

"Sister Zhang, cough, there are still people around."

"What's there to worry about? Hugging is considered polite in Florida."

"Why didn't you give me a heads-up before coming over?"

"Didn't I call you brat?"

"But you didn't mention you'd bring so many people. I wasn't prepared."

"Hehe, didn't I say I wanted to surprise you? Surprise?"

"How could I not be surprised? If I had known you were bringing so many foreign investors, I'd probably be so happy these days that I wouldn't sleep. I've been looking forward to it."

"Haha, as long as you're happy."

"Thanks, Sister Zhang. You've helped me this time."

"It's always you helping me. I had a rare chance to help you this time, so no need for thanks. We don't need to be so polite."

"Alright, then, I won't be polite. Hehe."

"Ha, it's appropriate to be a bit polite. After you made the call, I started contacting people everywhere. There should be some reward for that, right?"

"Uh, what reward?"

"Let's talk about it later. First, handle the situation here."

"Alright. It's not convenient to talk here. Cough, stop hugging."

Though Zhang Longjuan's sudden attack was unexpected, Dong Xuebing was secretly delighted. Seeing so many CEOs and shareholders of large corporations, he felt his eyes shining. However, chatting with Zhang Longjuan, he forgot about the time. After coming to his senses, he realized they had been hugging for half a minute, all in full view of everyone. Dong Xuebing, whose face had never been thick-skinned, now felt slightly embarrassed.

Zhang Longjuan, however, didn't think much of it. Smiling broadly, she let him go. "County Mayor Dong, haha. Let me introduce you to these people."

"Sure." Dong Xuebing followed her.

Zhang Longjuan pointed to a person. "This is Anna, my younger sister. Their family business has a lot of business dealings with my company. I'm also an old friend of her father."

Dong Xuebing looked at her. Although this foreign girl was the youngest, she was still significantly older than Dong Xuebing. So, he immediately shook hands with her. "Hello, nice to meet you." This sentence was spoken in English.

The foreign girl also smiled and shook hands with him, saying a few sentences. However, Dong Xuebing didn't understand.

Zhang Longjuan continued, "This is Lena, my business partner. He was also my first friend when I got to Florida. A good person, just with a heavy accent. Sometimes I can't understand what he's saying."

Dong Xuebing and Lena also shook hands.

Then Lena, this towering man at 1.9 meters, smiled and hugged Dong Xuebing.

In the eyes of others, the hug seemed to carry the same meaning as when Ms. Zhang hugged County Mayor Dong earlier. The surrounding people didn't seem to find it inappropriate, considering Zhang Longjuan was an investor from abroad and had lived there for many years. Their customs and habits were likely different from those in China. Although it might seem odd in the domestic context, hugging was a common and courteous gesture in their culture, similar to a handshake. Moreover, it was evident that Zhang Longjuan and Zhen Shui Mayor had known each other for a long time and appeared very familiar. The embrace and greetings between two old friends seemed perfectly normal to everyone else. While Dong Xuebing and Zhang Longjuan conversed in low tones, others couldn't hear what they were saying, only seeing them chatting and laughing, assuming it was a friendly exchange.

So, no one paid much attention to it.

Compared to the hug, everyone was more concerned about the investment.

When people saw Zhang Longjuan and Dong Xuebing knew each other, discussions broke out among the crowd.

"So, they were invited by Zhen Shui County."

"Why didn't we get any information beforehand?"

"Zhen Shui County has been quite secretive. I was wondering why they were so relaxed."

"But wait, judging by the expression of their Mayor, it seems like he was also unaware."

"I saw that too. He looked surprised. Probably didn't expect it himself."

"What's going on? How could they bring so many foreign investors without prior notice, and all of them are from large corporations with investments in the billions or tens of billions?"

"This is a huge opportunity."

"Do we still have a chance?"

"Well, looking at the Mayor's expression, it doesn't seem like he knew in advance."

"I saw it too. Quite surprised. I guess he didn't expect this."

"What a situation. They didn't even know but still managed to attract so many foreign investors, and all these are large conglomerates."

"The pie is getting bigger."

"Do we still have a chance?"

"Who knows? Ms. Zhang and Zhen Shui County might not have such a good relationship as it seems on the surface. The key is whether the project can attract them."

"Right. No matter how good their relationship is, business is business."

"Yes, that place Zhen Shui County is, they can't retain such a big piece of the pie."

Zhen Shui County had long annoyed many people, marginalized by the city and other districts' investment bureaus. Seeing that so many foreign investors were heading there, envy arose among many. However, even though Zhen Shui County gained the advantage, many believed they couldn't keep these foreign investors. When the time came, Zhang Longjuan and the other investors would likely be redirected elsewhere. Essentially, Zhen Shui County was preparing the wedding dress for others. Thinking about this, the envy in people's hearts diminished. Many started to anticipate and plan their bidding strategies.

The arrival of Zhang Longjuan's team changed many things.

The unexpected hug between Zhang Longjuan and Dong Xuebing also altered many things.

At least, even if Deputy City Mayor Hua and other city officials didn't know what to think about it, their attitude towards County Mayor Dong became less rigid after giving each other astonished glances.

After the introductions were done, Dong Xuebing returned.

"Mayor Dong," Hua Li called out to him.

Dong Xuebing glanced at him. "Mayor Hua."

Hua Li's tone softened. "For such a big matter, why wasn't it reported earlier?"

Dong Xuebing also noticed the subtle change in Hua Li's attitude. However, he knew this change was not due to his achievements but mainly because Zhang Longjuan and many investors were present. It would be foolish if they displayed displeasure towards Dong Xuebing in front of them. So, Dong Xuebing replied, "I just found out. I originally invited Ms. Zhang, but it was only her. I don't know the others. However, she was busy with business, and the time wasn't certain. I thought about reporting to the city but considering her schedule; I didn't. I had no idea there would be so many people coming. I would have gone to the airport to welcome them if I had known. How could I not inform the city and be busy with other things at the investment promotion venue?"

Hua Li nodded slightly. "I understand. I guessed you were unaware. It's alright. Now that they're here, that's good. The invitation from Zhen Shui County carries a lot of weight. We are honored to have Chairman Zhang and many well-known international corporate shareholders and investors."

Lu Weiguo seemed to want to affirm Zhen Shui County's achievements, but perhaps due to thin skin, he hesitated and refrained from saying anything.

Other investment promotion personnel looked at Dong Xuebing with complex expressions.

The city's investment promotion official who had argued with them earlier had a disgruntled expression. Nobody had expected Zhen Shui County to experience such a turnaround and encounter such tremendous luck.

However, Dong Xuebing was a bit disdainful of the praise and approval from Hua Li and the others. He didn't like Hua Li and Lu Weiguo at all. When Zhang Longjuan and the delegation hadn't arrived, you were tossing us around with the worst booth and not giving us good rooms. You insisted on revoking our booth qualification and never showed us any goodwill. Now that you see we invited Zhang Longjuan, and I know her, your attitude suddenly changed.

What a joke.

Where were you when we needed you?

Dong Xuebing always had a petty mentality towards people like them.

Lu Weiguo looked at him and finally spoke, "County Mayor Dong, you invited Ms. Zhang. Just now, you must have heard it. The delegates want to go down for site visits by themselves, without anyone accompanying them. This lacks specificity, and there won't be anyone to introduce the projects. It's not feasible. Can you talk to Ms. Zhang and suggest that our city's investment promotion personnel accompany them? It would also facilitate their research."

Now that Zhang Longjuan had arrived, bringing along a large group of people, Dong Xuebing gained confidence. He felt disappointed with the city officials but wasn't bothered by them anymore. He even disregarded the possibility of the booth being revoked. He grumbled, "They will not listen to me."

Hua Li said, "With your good relationship with Ms. Zhang, your suggestions will surely be considered. We must provide better services and suitable projects for the foreign investors."

Dong Xuebing scoffed, "I haven't known Ms. Zhang for long. It took a lot of effort to bring her here. If I ask for too much, it might annoy her. Let's listen to the investors' opinions."

Seeing Dong Xuebing unresponsive, Hua Li's expression soured.

Lu Weiguo was even more dissatisfied. How do you know she won't agree if you don't say anything?

Dong Xuebing, of course, ignored them. Let your people go with them for site visits. What nonsense are you thinking?

Chapter 1453: He is smarter than everyone else

Inside the park.

As introductions and activities continued on this side, it was already past ten o'clock.

This group of foreign investors had caught the provincial government's attention, not to mention the city and other places. The news spread like wildfire.

Ring, ring, ring.

Dong Xuebing's phone rang.

Looking at the number, it was a call from the county.

He said, "The Party Secretary is calling. It might be urgent. Let me take the call."

Seizing the opportunity, Dong Xuebing escaped from Hua Li and Lu Weiguo, walking to a nearby place with no one around to answer the call. Generally, answering such calls when a Deputy City Mayor is talking to you is not suitable unless it's a call from the Provincial or City top Leaders. It might make the deputy mayor feel disrespected. Even if it's urgent, it's better to hang up and call back later. However, Dong Xuebing didn't care. Firstly, he couldn't agree to Hua Li's and Lu Weiguo's requests to talk to Ms. Zhang about something. Secondly, Dong Xuebing had a poor relationship with Hua Li and Lu Weiguo. Thirdly, Dong Xuebing was confident. In the current situation, they couldn't do anything to him even if he didn't give face to the Deputy Mayor and the City's Investment Promotion Bureau director.

"Hello, Secretary Meng."

"The foreign investor inspection team has arrived."

"Yes, they are already here."

"I heard they are coming to our Zhen Shui County."

"Yes, there's an old friend of mine whom I invited. I didn't expect so many people to come. I thought it would be just one person, so I didn't have time to report to the county."

"That's not a problem. Do well, do well." Meng Rui also knew the significance of this group of foreign investors, completely different from the small investors before. Each could match a hundred small investors attending the investment promotion conference. One person for a hundred.

Ten people could represent a thousand.

Everyone understood the concept.

"Secretary Meng, how should I arrange things here now?" Dong Xuebing sought the county's opinion.

Meng Rui was very straightforward and excited in his tone, "The task of leading the team this time has been entrusted to you by the county. You decide on all matters. Make sure to keep these people in our county."

"You can rest assured."

"I have already discussed this with Mayor Jiang. We're also planning to temporarily mobilize a group of people to help your Investment Promotion Bureau fight this battle. Can they arrive today?"

"It might not be possible today."

"Why? Do they need to stay in the city?"

Dong Xuebing sensed Secretary Meng's concern. The city was currently surrounded by many "wolves." Everyone was eyeing this piece of meat, and every extra day spent there posed a danger. If someone else grabbed the opportunity, they would have nowhere to turn. Putting in so much effort would only benefit others, but Dong Xuebing wasn't particularly worried. "I just checked. Everyone seems a bit tired. After all, they came from abroad, dealing with a significant time difference. They haven't rested yet and might need an entire night to adjust. I'll ask them later, but I estimate they won't be able to return to Zhen Shui County until tomorrow morning."

"Tomorrow morning? Alright, I'll discuss it with Mayor Jiang. A delay of one day is not a problem. The main thing is to secure their commitment. You understand what I mean."

"I understand. But it might offend some people."

"Both Mayor Jiang and I fully support you here. Act decisively, and don't be afraid to offend people."

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

"Good, I leave it to you there. Accomplish this task well. Consider it your first merit."

The County Party Secretary had conveyed the county's attitude to Dong Xuebing. Dong Xuebing understood the situation. Hearing the excitement in the leader's voice, he became even more motivated.

This was a great opportunity.

It must be seized.

After hanging up the phone, Dong Xuebing looked around. Many domestic investors had entered the park, some arriving yesterday while others had just landed. The front square was divided into two areas. Some county-level investment promotion bureau staff continued their work from yesterday, attracting domestic investors. On the other side, Zhang Longjuan led the foreign inspection team, accompanied by Hua Li and Lu Weiguo, engaging in conversations.

The venue became lively.

The atmosphere was high.

Dong Xuebing walked back and heard a Chinese foreigner of ethnic Chinese speaking in non-standard Chinese about adjusting to jet lag, and the other foreigners nodded in agreement.

Zhang Longjuan smiled, "I'm a bit tired, too. The flight has exhausted me. Mayor Hua, why don't we all go for a meal and then rest?"

Hua Li said, "What about the inspection?"

Zhang Longjuan replied, "We can discuss other matters tomorrow."

"That works. Let me arrange a hotel for you." Hua Li said.

Zhang Longjuan chuckled, "Thank you then."

Hua Li and Lu Weiguo discussed this briefly. Dinner arrangements were easy, and the banquet hall had been booked in advance. However, the accommodation issue was challenging. Almost all of their hotel rooms were occupied, and assigning them regular standard rooms was inappropriate.

Dong Xuebing spoke up, "I can provide six presidential suites on my side, and there are plenty of rooms inside. It should be enough."

Dong Xuebing felt that he had shown foresight by booking these presidential suites. He didn't want the city to offer this favor.

Hua Li and his team had no other choice. This was the only solution, considering the city had only a few presidential suites to host distinguished guests.

With the arrangements made, Dong Xuebing returned to his county's booth to delegate tasks.

Seeing Mayor Dong returning, Zheng Dayou, Chen Yunsong, Gong Na, and others had been holding back their questions.

"Mayor Dong."

"How did it go?"

"Did they come for us?!"

Everyone was overwhelmed with happiness.

Dong Xuebing nodded, "The head of the delegation, Ms. Zhang, is an old acquaintance of mine. Alright, we'll talk about this later. Now, get a few people with me to the hotel. Pack up the luggage in our presidential suites, move downstairs, and make the rooms available for them. Old Zheng, Xiao Chen, you two stay here to manage. Make sure we can attract as many domestic investors as possible. I'll go and have dinner with Ms. Zhang and her team."

"Okay."

"Understood."

Dong Xuebing spoke quickly, and they responded just as fast. Chang Juan and Gong Na immediately accompanied Dong Xuebing, afraid they might be late and the foreign investors would converse with others during dinner.

Watching Mayor Dong's departing figure, Zheng Dayou couldn't help but feel a slight sense of emotion. Many people in the county said Dong Xuebing was impulsive, making decisions without using his brain. However, after several days of interaction, Zheng Dayou discovered this was untrue. Many people thought Dong Xuebing's threat to resign if he couldn't complete the task during the Party Committee meeting was too foolish. But now, it seemed that Mayor Dong was

holding all the cards, having already contacted the right people. That's why he dared to make such demands during the Party Committee meeting, asking for power and money.

Foolish?

Impulsive?

Forget it.

This young Executive Deputy Mayor was smarter than anyone else.

Chapter 1454: Became popular

Before noon.

Information on more than a dozen foreign companies has been obtained.

Officials from various county investment promotion bureaus have received first-hand information.

This document confirms the companies' foreign status and details the shareholders and investment advisors from overseas conglomerates. Most of the companies are from the African continent.

Moreover, it lists each individual's asset scale and business direction in the delegation. As expected, apart from two or three companies with assets in the range of a few hundred million RMB, the rest of the delegation represents large groups with assets reaching tens of billions of RMB. Many people correctly guessed one thing. The leader of the delegation, Ms. Zhang Longjuan, is surprisingly powerful. Her company's assets have reached over a hundred billion RMB, explaining why the other delegation members regard her highly. Not only do their companies have business dealings or friendships with Ms. Zhang's company, but her strength is also evident. This information immediately reassures everyone in Meihe City, making them even more enthusiastic about this group of foreign investors. "Enthusiastic" might be an understatement.

At the hotel.

In a small banquet hall.

Several dozen people entered one after another.

"Please, Ms. Zhang, you take the main seat."

"Hehe, Mayor Hua, don't be polite. You should take the seat."

"I'll pass. I just received a notice from the Party Secretary that the City Mayor will be here soon."

"Oh, the Mayor is coming here? How embarrassing, people in leadership positions are busy with official duties."

"The city attaches great importance to the research of your delegation. The mayor is coming. The secretary is on a business trip to another city and might rush back soon."

"In that case, I should not sit in the main seat. I'll leave it for the Party Secretary and the Mayor."

"By the way, should we order some Western cuisine or something for the dishes?"

"No need. We'll go with the local customs and taste the local dishes of Meihe City."

"Alright, we'll order according to the banquet standards, with each dish served once. If you don't like it, we can add some Western dishes later."

"Sure. We'll follow Mayor Hua's arrangement."

"Old Lu, let our people take their seats too."

Dong Xuebing was the last to enter. He blinked when he saw the scene in the banquet hall. Not only were Mayor Hua Li, Deputy Mayor Lu Weiguo, and officials from the City Investment Promotion Bureau present, but also investment promotion bureau directors from various counties and districts. Dong Xuebing even spotted Chen Mingming and Ma Yanfen, who hadn't been very friendly toward their Zhen Shui County before. However, with more than a dozen foreign investors and the presence of Mayor Hua and Deputy Mayor Lu at the main table, they had to leave a place for the secretary and the mayor, resulting in a crowded situation. These county and district bureau directors had to sit at the second table.

"Mayor Dong is here," a City Investment Promotion Bureau staff member noticed him.

Zhang Longjuan smiled and looked at him, saying, "Mayor Dong, come and join us."

Dong Xuebing glanced around. Since there would be plenty of opportunities for communication later, he didn't mind for now. His main purpose in coming to the banquet was to ensure that officials from other counties or districts wouldn't poach other investors from Zhang's team. Therefore, he came to supervise. Since the bureau directors from other counties and districts were already seated at the second table, Dong Xuebing didn't mind. He said, "No need. I'll sit at that table. There's no space left here."

Zhang Longjuan chuckled, "Sure."

Hua Li and Lu Weiguo didn't extend an invitation to Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing didn't mind and casually walked over to the second table.

At this moment, Ma Yanfen smiled, "Mayor Dong, please sit here. We've been keeping a seat for you."

It was the main seat, and Dong Xuebing didn't hesitate. After all, his position as the deputy county mayor was much higher than the bureau directors of these counties and districts. He went over and took a seat.

Ma Yanfen sat beside him and teased, "Mayor Dong is quite low-key."

Chen Mingming, on the other side, also smiled, "Zhen Shui County is making headlines this time. Even Old Zheng did well. We've been friends for many years, and he kept it a secret from me."

Another investment promotion bureau director from a different district asked, "Mayor Dong, how many days is the foreign investment inspection team planning to research?"

Dong Xuebing didn't reveal any information, "I'm not sure about that. I haven't asked. It could be a week or a month."

Then, another bureau director probed for more information, but Dong Xuebing remained tight-lipped. He sat there, sipping tea and smoking, waiting for the dishes to be served.

Ma Yanfen couldn't hold back and interjected, "Mayor Dong, the foreign investment inspection team will probably start their inspection tomorrow. Our two counties are not far apart. After they finish inspecting Zhen Shui County, would you consider introducing them to our county? To clarify,

it's not about snatching investments from Zhen Shui County. We just want the investors to come and take a look. With your good relationship with Ms. Zhang, your word could make it happen."

Dong Xuebing looked at her, "It depends more on Ms. Zhang and her team. My words might not have much effect. You can contact them directly if they want to inspect your county."

The bureau directors from the counties and districts naturally had similar thoughts. They wanted to contact those foreign investors directly and bring them to their countries. However, considering the large number of counties and districts in Meihe City and the busy schedule of these investors, inspecting all the regions in a month was impractical. Choices had to be made, and with the excellent relationship between Zhen Shui County's Dong Xuebing and the inspection team leader, Ms. Zhang, a word from him might determine the route of the investors' inspection. Everyone had their minds set on this, wanting Dong Xuebing to help mediate. In an instant, Zhen Shui County, which had been isolated by the city and all other county investment promotion bureaus, became a hot commodity. The attitude towards Dong Xuebing also made a complete U-turn, becoming warm and friendly. Only a few bureau directors remained silent, likely planning on how to attract investors.

"Uh-huh."

"I don't know."

"I can't decide."

"You can ask Ms. Zhang and her team."

Dong Xuebing suddenly adopted an official tone, repeating these four sentences almost verbatim from start to finish. His demeanor changed, and he didn't take their words to heart. The disappointment in Meihe City and the city's investment promotion bureau had thoroughly disillusioned Dong Xuebing. He also had a poor impression of the investment promotion bureaus of other counties and districts. Oh, when you don't need us, you're all indifferent, and now that you need help, you're all enthusiastic.

Bluffing.

Don't come at me with that.

Dong Xuebing didn't yield to their soft or hard approaches. When the dishes arrived, he focused on eating his meal, paying no attention to the words of these bureau directors.

During a joyous occasion, looking at the foreign investors seated at the main table not far away and at the county and district bureau directors being polite, Dong Xuebing's appetite surged for a moment

Chapter 1455: Fighting over vegetables

Around noon.

In the small banquet hall on the fifth floor of the hotel.

Putting down his chopsticks, Dong Xuebing hadn't felt this full in a long time. He looked content, leaning back in his chair, leisurely smoking a cigarette, thoroughly satisfied after the meal.

Ring, ring, ring.

His phone rang.

"Hello, who's this?"

"Mayor Dong, it's me, Zhang Changjuan."

"Sister Zhang, what's up? Is the luggage all packed?"

"We've almost finished packing, but your luggage"

"I've cleared my luggage too. All the rooms are reserved for the investors."

"Great. I will help you take your clothes and everything downstairs."

"Alright, let's do this. I've finished eating here. I'll come upstairs and meet you. Wait for me."

"Sure, mainly, Xiao Gong said she wasn't sure how to handle your luggage. I thought it was a good idea to call and ask you."

"I'll come up and organize it."

"We'll wait for you in the presidential suite."

"I haven't had lunch yet; I'll bring something up for us."

"No need, hehe, we'll grab something later."

"How can that be? It's lunchtime, and I can't let you two women busy with the luggage. It's a bit of trouble. Okay, don't worry about it. Wait for me for ten minutes."

After hanging up, Dong Xuebing noticed that the secretary and mayor hadn't arrived at the main table yet. So, he went over to Hua Li. He was not giving face to Hua Li, but to give face to the foreign investors. He didn't want them to think he lacked manners. If he was leaving, he should inform them, "Mayor Hua, esteemed investors, I have something to attend to upstairs. I apologize for the inconvenience. There's an issue with the rooms I need to handle."

Hua Li said, "Are the presidential suites available now?"

Dong Xuebing nodded, "Almost."

Hua Li asked, "Are the rooms enough?"

Dong Xuebing said, "The suite guest rooms are not usable. A presidential suite can accommodate two people. With six suites, that's twelve people. But there are thirteen investors. We might be one person short, and it's a bit tricky to arrange."

These foreign investors were all significant shareholders and bosses with status. It was impossible to let them stay in guest rooms. It wasn't about whether the rooms could accommodate them; it was about showing respect. Moreover, they had already mentioned that they had prepared presidential suites. However, it would be awkward to arrange accommodations with an additional person. Even if it was a business executive deluxe room, it couldn't compare to the luxury of the presidential suite. It might offend someone.

Outside.

Dong Xuebing left the banquet hall.

At this moment, a few waiters came in carrying dishes.

Dong Xuebing immediately stopped them, "Don't bring these dishes in. Either make another set or just send the dishes below. I'll take these."

"Ah, take them?" The two female waiters looked at him in confusion.

Dong Xuebing grabbed a few plates without saying a word, "Just like this."

The female waiters were stunned. They wondered who this person was and how could he snatch dishes like this. The leaders of the city and the investors were inside. When they heard that the secretary and mayor were coming later, this

"Don't do this!"

"What are you doing?"

The two female waiters panicked.

The staff from the city's investment promotion bureau, guarding the banquet hall entrance, wiped their sweat and quickly approached, "Have the kitchen remake the dishes."

"Sorry about that." Dong Xuebing carried the dishes and left.

The female waiters stomped, "Who does this kind of thing?"

The city's investment promotion bureau staff said, "Ahem, that's Mayor Dong."

Oh, it's the Mayor. The two female waiters suddenly fell silent.

If Dong Xuebing had dared to snatch dishes like this a few hours ago, the staff from the investment promotion bureau would never have agreed. But now things were different. This entire meal was thanks to Dong Xuebing. He had brought in foreign investors. Snatching a couple of dishes wasn't something they could object to. They felt that the Deputy Mayor of Zhen Shui County was a bit speechless. He didn't follow the usual conventions. He could afford a Land Rover worth four million, and he had even paid fifty thousand to cover the cost of a presidential suite. These two or three dishes were missing, and he couldn't spare the time. It's not like ordering one more portion would take much time, but he insisted on grabbing dishes during a meal with city leaders. It was really beyond comprehension.

On the top floor.

The elevator dinged open.

Dong Xuebing stepped out of the elevator and saw several presidential suites across the corridor, all with open doors and being cleaned by hotel staff. Only the room he stayed in yesterday had its door closed. Dong Xuebing walked over, holding the dishes in both hands, unable to free up his hands. He had to kick the door with his foot.

"Who is it?"

"It's me."

"Oh, you're here."

The door opened, revealing Gong Na's face.

Dong Xuebing smiled and walked into the room, "Where's Director Chang?"

Gong Na hurriedly said, "Director Chang is in the kitchen reheating the leftover rice from yesterday. We're planning to stir-fry a couple of dishes."

"Hey, didn't I say you don't need to bother? I brought some food. You all must be hungry. Let's eat." Dong Xuebing placed the dishes on the small dining table.

Chang Juan also said, "Oh, why did you bring the dishes up? You could have let the waiters handle it."

Dong Xuebing smiled, "Just a small matter. Let's eat while it's hot, Director Chang."

Gong Na volunteered, "I'll go serve the rice. Mayor Dong, would you like one bowl or two?"

"Don't worry about me. I just had my meal downstairs and am quite full. You two go ahead and enjoy your meal." Dong Xuebing sat down at the dining table.

Chang Juan asked, "Everyone is in the banquet hall?"

Dong Xuebing nodded, "Yes, the City Party Secretary and Mayor will be here later. I guess we'll be eating quite late. Let's not rush to tidy up. You two eat your fill first."

"Jellyfish salad, I like this."

"The Squirrel Mandarin Fish should be good too. Let's try everything."

Gong Na returned with the rice, and Chang Juan and Gong Na began eating. They had been busy all morning, tidying up the house and moving boxes. Zheng Dayou and Chen Yunsong's luggage had probably been packed and moved away by the two of them. Famished, they ate heartily. Although Dong Xuebing said he wouldn't eat, Gong Na still brought him a pair of chopsticks and an empty bowl out of politeness. Seeing this, Dong Xuebing took a few bites of the Squirrel Mandarin Fish.

"Where's our room?" Dong Xuebing asked.

Chang Juan looked up, "Still on the fourth floor, the original rooms."

"Is the luggage all moved?"

"They're all sorted out. I just had the staff take them downstairs. We're only waiting for your luggage now."

"Alright, I'll tidy up later. After the meal, Director Chang, please contact Chief Cheng and others. Let the Investment Promotion Bureau make all necessary preparations on our side. The county has also sent additional manpower to assist us. Make sure Cheng Yujie, Xiao Hong, and others work overtime to get things done before we arrive. We must make it look good even if it's just for the show. We cannot afford any problems."

"Understood, I'll contact her."

Dong Xuebing looked at Gong Na, "Xiao Gong, in the afternoon, you return to the investment promotion booth and tell Old Zheng to return to Zhen Shui County today for arrangements. Without an experienced comrade staying behind, I'm not at ease."

Gong Na hurriedly swallowed the food, saying, "I got it, Mayor Dong."

"Then, you and Xiao Chen stay at our booth. Don't neglect the domestic investors; try to bring in as many as possible. Director Chang, after I leave tomorrow, I'll leave you the work on the investment

promotion side. Manage things well with Xiao Chen and Xiao Gong. If there's a manpower shortage, contact me, and I'll have Xiao Xiao come over to help. In short, even though our current situation is favorable, we can't relax. I brought people here but don't know if they will invest. Inspections and actual investments are two different things. We don't want these people to just go through the motions; we want them to implement real projects. Only by signing an MOU and finalizing project contracts can we consider it a success. So, as I said before, we must secure the investment this time."

As Dong Xuebing said, he could only guarantee Sister Zhang's investment but couldn't ensure the other foreign investors. Therefore, he still needed to put effort into this. Sister Zhang had worked hard to create this opportunity, and they must seize it. Today was the only day they could take it easy; tomorrow would be a tough battle.

After assigning the tasks, Dong Xuebing packed his luggage and moved downstairs. During this time, there was a small incident in the banquet hall.

During this time, something happened at the banquet.

"Mayor Hua, the City Party Secretary and Mayor, will be here in ten minutes," a staff member came in and reported.

Hua Liang nodded and said he knew. When a female waiter came in with a dish, he asked, "Are all the dishes here, or are there still some missing?"

The female waiter nervously replied, "A few soup dishes are still being prepared."

Hua Liang hummed, then suddenly frowned, "Just a few soup dishes? What about the Soft Shell Prawns and Squirrel Mandarin Fish? Weren't they the signature dishes here? Why didn't I see them?" When chatting earlier, he recommended the hotel's signature dishes to Sister Zhang and others, hoping they would try them. However, he didn't see them at the end.

The female waiter hesitated.

Hua Liang asked, "What's wrong?"

The female waiter wiped her sweat, coughed, and said, "There were three dishes just brought over. However, Mayor Dong took them when he went out. The kitchen is working on them right now, and they will be here soon."

Mayor Dong

Snatched the dishes

Hua Liang: ""

Lu Weiguo: ""

Other heads of investment promotion bureaus from different counties: ""

A profound sense of powerlessness instantly swept through the hearts of many.

Even the city was squeezed dried, and now, even the dishes served to entertain foreign guests and the dinner for the City Party Secretary and Mayor you dare to take them for yourself.

Everyone surrendered.

Only Zhang Longjuan found this amusing.

Chapter 1456: Captivating Old Fox

Afternoon.

A little past two.

Not a cloud in the sky.

The intense sun flaunted itself in the midday sky. The early summer heat pressed down on the streets and the asphalt road, the exterior walls of the hotel, and the surfaces of the electric poles seemed to be hanging with fire, giving a sensation of imminent combustion. Cities with significant temperature differences between day and night are like this: in the morning, you might need to tighten your collar and add a thin jacket, but by the afternoon, you'll be sweating, and even the birds seek refuge in the shade of the tree branches, calling weakly.

Outside the hotel.

Under the shade of a few green trees.

Dong Xuebing was talking to a city's investment promotion office staff member.

"Mayor Dong, the rooms are ready."

"Everything is prepared. What's up?"

"The luggage of the foreign businessmen is still in the car. Shall we bring it up?"

"Sure, but don't put the luggage in the rooms. Put them in the storage first. Later, when the foreign businessmen finish their meal, let them choose their rooms themselves."

"Alright, I'll go in and have someone move them."

"Make sure they are careful not to damage anything."

"Okay, I'll remind them to be careful when moving."

"By the way, just give me Ms. Zhang's luggage. Her room is not on the top floor."

Dong Xuebing invited these people. Naturally, he had to take care of such matters himself. After a brief consideration, he felt uneasy and followed the hotel staff in. While walking, he kept instructing, and when going upstairs, he made a few phone calls to check the situation of the county exhibition booth and the banquet in the hotel's banquet hall. The foreign businessmen were still having dinner with the Party Secretary and the Mayor. Chang Juan and Gong Na had already returned to the Central Park. Zheng Dayou was on his way back to Zhen Shui County. The investment promotion work in the county was proceeding smoothly, and Dong Xuebing no longer needed to worry about it. His current task was to accompany these foreign businessmen and bring them back to Zhen Shui County tomorrow.

On the upper floor.

After settling the luggage, Dong Xuebing went down one floor. He then walked to the end of the corridor and lit a cigarette in the smoking area next to the elevator. It had been a busy day, and he was tired.

Ring, ring, ring, the phone rang.

It was a call from Xu Yan, Sister Xu.

Dong Xuebing answered, "Hello, Sister Xu."

A woman's smiling voice came from the other end. "Met with Old Zhang?"

"Yes, they are having dinner now. It has been two hours. Why did you call when you already knew Sister Zhang was here?"

Xu Yan laughed, "We've already met."

"Sister Zhang said she visited the provincial capital to see her old classmates."

"Hehe, the two of you are quite close now. Old Zhang is coming over; she didn't even inform me in advance. She wouldn't have contacted me if I hadn't received a letter and called her first. She is not allowed to contact me unless I take the initiative." Xu Yan is now the Deputy Director of the National Security Department. She naturally knows the situation in the province.

Dong Xuebing coughed, "No, I didn't know when Sister Zhang would come. I just invited her. I didn't expect Sister Zhang to bring so many foreigners."

"Still, you are quite something."

"Where? Please don't embarrass me."

"For these years, I have invited Old Zhang to come over several times, asking her to come back to play, but this old woman has never agreed. She has been busy, busy, busy. You just made a call, and she came from far away. I think you have more face than me."

"Alright, no need to be so formal. Hehe, take good care of Old Zhang. I just took office, and there's a lot of work to do. We can catch up when everything settles down."

"Well, are you okay?"

"I'm fine, doing well. You take care of yourself, too."

"Got it, I will. I've been going to bed earlier now."

"Good, that's important. Big Sister still has some matters to attend to, so let's talk later."

"Sure, if we go to the provincial capital, we'll call you. You take care, and I'll hang up."

After hanging up the phone, Dong Xuebing finished his cigarette, waited for a call that didn't come, and closed his eyes, taking a short nap to rest.

But instead of a call, someone arrived.

Ding! The elevator door opened not far away, and Zhang Longjuan walked out.

Behind her were Lu Weiguo and several staff members from the city's investment promotion office.

"Ms. Zhang, your room is over there."

"Alright, then I'll rest. You can go back."

"Do you have the room key? Here's my business card and phone number. If you need anything, just call me."

"Hehe, thanks, Director Lu. Look at us making you all busy for a visit."

"We must provide good service to investors. You rest, and by the way, take a look at tomorrow's itinerary."

"Let's talk about it tomorrow, ha."

"Well, okay. We won't disturb your rest."

After saying goodbye, Lu Weiguo and the others took the elevator downstairs. They still hadn't seen Dong Xuebing in the rest area. Dong Xuebing stood up when they left, feeling helpless about Lu Weiguo and his group's actions. These people wanted to build relationships with foreign businessmen and deliberately excluded him. They didn't even want him to be involved with certain people.

Too petty.

That was Dong Xuebing's evaluation of these people.

Before coming to Meihe City, Dong Xuebing always thought his overall view was lacking, his political experience was weak, and he was relatively "petty" in his considerations. However, after coming to this place, he realized he wasn't worse than these people. These people were even more petty than him.

Ahead.

Zhang Longjuan used her room card to open the door.

"Sister Zhang," Dong Xuebing smiled and called out from behind.

Zhang Longjuan turned around, laughing, "When did you come?"

Dong Xuebing pointed to the smoking area behind, "I've been here all along. Didn't you see me?"

"Haha, you hid quite well. Come in and talk." Zhang Longjuan opened the door and walked in.

Knowing surveillance cameras were in the corridor, Dong Xuebing said nothing outside. He followed her inside. With a thud, he closed the door. It was an executive suite, not the best, but not the worst. There was a foyer, a guest area, and an office area inside. Dong Xuebing didn't enter the bedroom, so he didn't know how it was decorated. From the outside, it looked average; there was no kitchen and only one bathroom.

Dong Xuebing asked, "Is this room okay?"

Zhang Longjuan, after entering, casually kicked off her high heels onto the floor, stepped on the black stockings, took a few steps, and then fell onto the big sofa in the guest area, laughing, "What? Are you worried Sister Zhang won't have a good place to stay?"

One high heel lay down.

The other high heel flipped over.

"Oh, these are expensive shoes. Don't throw them around like this."

"Hehe, tired today. The people in your city are too enthusiastic."

"Of course, they're enthusiastic. They're all thinking about getting you to invest. Haven't you seen their eyes turn red?" Dong Xuebing bent down to pick up her black high heels, neatly placing them

in front of the sofa, "Is the room a bit small? I can book a presidential suite in another hotel for you."

Zhang Longjuan laughed, "You ah Do you think I am fussy about the room? An executive suite is pretty good. Don't be so extravagant. Sister Zhang started from scratch. Don't be fooled by my luxury house in Florida. Give me a little flat of ten square meters, and I can live comfortably. I'm not that delicate. Old Xu knows me. When I was in school, I went through a lot of hardships. Haha." Zhang Longjuan, with her beautiful feet wrapped in black stockings, raised them slightly in the air, crossed her legs halfway, and appeared in Dong Xuebing's eyes with a faint allure, her tiny blue suit long gone. She was left with only a shirt and white casual pants, revealing a mature and charming figure, vaguely visible.

Full.

Sexy.

And that seemingly intentionally posed figure.

Zhang Longjuan, with a smiling expression, took her fingers and gently rubbed them on her thigh, raising her eyebrows. The charm immediately radiated.

Dong Xuebing felt agitated and confused. This was the first time he had seen a woman in her forties being so enchanting. In Dong Xuebing's impression, middle-aged women were mostly like Xu Yan, conservative and reserved. Even if they were sexy, it was restrained. Where could you find someone like Zhang Longjuan, so unrestrained?

"Cough, cough."

"Why are you coughing? Come and sit here."

"You've occupied the entire sofa. Where should I sit?"

"Isn't there space here? Come over. It's been a long time since I've seen our handsome young man. Come over and let me take a look."

"Are you teasing me again?"

"Come quickly, and let me see if you've slimmed down."

Dong Xuebing was helpless. Sister Zhang's enthusiasm had always been something he found troublesome, always flirting with him. Seeing the only space left on the sofa, which happened to be in front of Zhang Longjuan's slightly bent abdomen, Dong Xuebing figured it out and sat down.

Zhang Longjuan's eyes carried a hint of charm. She smiled and looked up and down at Dong Xuebing a few times, saying, "Not bad, you've become handsome again."

Dong Xuebing smiled bitterly, "It's only been a couple of months since we last met. What's changed?" Although he had this self-awareness, Dong Xuebing was still happy. Apart from Zhang Longjuan, no one had praised him like this. People like to hear compliments, and he enjoyed being admired.

"Sigh, tired." Zhang Longjuan curled her legs, sandwiching Dong Xuebing's buttocks and waist. Her body also softly lay on the sofa.

Dong Xuebing's heart was in turmoil.

A captivating fairy.

A captivating old fox.

Chapter 1457: Room

The temperature is getting hotter.

It's not just the hot air coming in from the outside windows that's causing trouble, but also Zhang Longjuan, who is revealing her sexy self on the sofa, raising the temperature even more. That alluring charm, let's not talk about it again. Dong Xuebing doesn't know if Sister Zhang feels hot, but as he looks at the somewhat provocative Sister Zhang, the fire in his heart crawls onto his skin, a growing sense of heat that he can see but not touch. Good-looking but untouchable, pleasing to the eye but uncomfortable for him.

"Haha, why are you wiping your sweat for so long?"

"Cough, hot, a bit hot."

"I am also hot. Didn't you turn on the air conditioner?"

"It seems not. Let me turn it on. What temperature do you want?"

"Twenty-seven or twenty-eight degrees is fine, not too cold. I am getting old, and my waist is not good."

"Alright, I'll adjust it. Hmm, oh, done, it's on."

When Dong Xuebing returned, he didn't dare to sit on the sofa again, afraid that Sister Zhang would place her legs on him again. He really couldn't handle it. So, he found a chair and sat next to her. Seeing Zhang Longjuan seeming a bit hot, she unexpectedly unbuttoned the second and third buttons of her shirt, revealing the cleavage and the edge of the dark bra. Dong Xuebing was completely taken aback. Earlier, in front of the city leaders and everyone, Sister Zhang still had an elegant and capable demeanor. As soon as she entered the room, she seemed like a different person, with a stark contrast.

"Sister Zhang, your buttons"

"What's there to be afraid of? Haha, do you dare to have ideas about me?"

"No, I'm just afraid someone might come in and see too much."

"Hehe, if someone comes in, I will button up again. You remind me then."

Zhang Longjuan twisted her waist on the sofa, slightly turned her body to face Dong Xuebing, squinted her eyes, stared at him, and occasionally chuckled.

Dong Xuebing's gaze couldn't help but be hooked by the lace edge on Sister Zhang's chest. After looking several times, he finally felt it was too much and quickly found a topic. "By the way, you haven't said why you brought so many people this time. All of them are from companies with tens of billions in assets."

"You kid said it would have a big impact on your promotion. So, I thought of bringing more people to give you more political achievements. But I want to make it clear. My investment is guaranteed. As for the others, I am not sure. I can help you persuade them, but the main thing is for you to do

the work. The money is theirs. Even if I have a good relationship with them and some business dealings, I can't force them to invest."

"I understand that." Dong Xuebing thanked her, "It's already enough for you to bring so many foreign investors. You don't need to worry about the rest."

Zhang Longjuan smiled, "Many of these people were deceived by Sister."

"Deceived?" Dong Xuebing sweated, "How did you deceive them?"

"Some of them are my friends, who came along for fun. Some are the ones I mentioned to you last time, with the country suppressing the investments of the Republic and even Chinese bosses. So, everyone wants to move their funds and find a new development direction. They came together, and I deceived the last few. I told them there's a big cake here, and they can make money, even double or triple the profits. So, they all came, haha."

"Oh, they must be grateful to you."

"No, it's just a little joke among friends. They also know my temper and our relationship is good. They won't hold a grudge."

"Thank you for this anyway."

"Don't be so polite. Okay, how will you thank me?"

"Cough, how do you want to be thanked?"

"Then you I have to think about it carefully."

Zhang Longjuan deliberately remained silent, smiling at him for a while. Finally, she sat up from the sofa, and her beautiful black silk-clad feet touched the floor. "Give me a cigarette."

Dong Xuebing chuckled, "Is this fine?"

Zhang Longjuan raised her hand with her fingers pinched, "Sure."

"Alright, alright." Dong Xuebing took a cigarette for her and lit it with a lighter.

Zhang Longjuan chuckled, taking a casual puff of the cigarette and leaning back. "People from your city keep bothering me about tomorrow's schedule. You heard it, too. Many other Investment Promotion Bureau people have approached us before, asking this and that about tomorrow. What's the plan?"

Dong Xuebing said, "We'll go to my county."

"Alright, you arrange it. I don't know much about this place, and I came here just for our little handsome guy. Whatever you decide, counts."

"Let's go in the morning."

"Good, what time?"

"Well, whenever everyone wakes up, it doesn't matter what time."

"Then let's make it 8 o'clock. Departure at eight sharp. I'll inform everyone in a while."

"Alright, 8 o'clock is perfect. Thank you so much this time. Otherwise, I wouldn't be able to complete my task here. The cigarette just now doesn't count. Anyway, I have to thank you."

"Sure, then sleep with me at night."

"How can that be? If someone finds out"

"Haha, I'm just teasing you. You took it seriously. Did you think of sleeping with me, you little pervert?"

"It was you who said it, not me."

"Really? No such thoughts? Am I not attractive at all?"

"Oh, no, you're very beautiful."

"Oh, looks like you do have thoughts about me."

"I I said enough. I won't talk anymore."

"Not talking anymore?"

""

"Okay." Zhang Longjuan took a hearty last drag of the cigarette, extinguished it in the ashtray, and smiled at Dong Xuebing. "If you are not speaking, I will undress and go to sleep." With that, she pinched the fourth button of her shirt, and if she unbuttoned it, her chest would be completely exposed.

Dong Xuebing hurriedly surrendered, "No, no, no."

He knew that Sister Zhang dared to undress for real. Although Dong Xuebing was also curious, the occasion was not suitable. Outside were foreign businessmen, people from the Investment Promotion Bureau, and even city leaders. Dong Xuebing's mind was not on this right now. If someone noticed, it would be troublesome.

Zhang Longjuan laughed, sensually shook her wavy curls, and said, "Stop kidding. I had been entertaining you and your city leaders for a long time. It's already past three. Well, let's talk more tomorrow. I need to sleep now."

Dong Xuebing immediately stood up. "Sure, get some rest."

Zhang Longjuan waved her hand, "Come over."

Dong Xuebing walked over suspiciously. "What's up?"

But Zhang Longjuan hooked his waist, and she leaned in to kiss Dong Xuebing's lips. Before Dong Xuebing could react, she pushed him away, "Haha, I am going to sleep."

This Sister Zhang Dong Xuebing was both amused and puzzled, but the feeling on his lips still made him feel content.

Chapter 1458: Mayor Dong shouted

Evening.

The sun was halfway down, casting a fiery glow across the horizon, burning like flames.

Dong Xuebing, who had just returned from the Investment Promotion Bureau site in the city center park, took a quick shower after returning. He washed away the sweat, shook his head feeling refreshed, exhaled, turned off the shower, dried his hair, and went out to find clean clothes.

At that moment, his phone rang.

The county was calling again.

Dong Xuebing knew they were concerned, fearing any accidents. He wasn't annoyed, picked up the phone, and pressed the answer button.

"Hello, Secretary Meng."

"Where are the foreign businessmen?"

"They went to bed in the afternoon."

"Is tomorrow's itinerary set?"

"It's set. I discussed it with Ms. Zhang, the leader of the delegation. We'll depart tomorrow morning at 8."

"Depart at 8, include buffer, and you should arrive before 10, right?"

"We can make it. It'll be 10:30 at the latest, definitely not beyond 11."

"Alright, understood. You don't need to worry about the banquet and reception work. The county will make the most thorough preparations. Mayor Jiang and I will personally go to welcome the foreign businessmen. Your job is to bring them over, not one less."

"Rest assured, there won't be any mistakes."

"I trust you to handle things, but you're in the city after all."

"I understand. I'll keep a closer eye on it. I won't let the foreign businessmen be snatched away."

"Good, I'll leave the city side to you, Mayor Dong. You've worked hard."

This was the second call from Meng Rui today and the fifth call from Zhen Shui County to Dong Xuebing. It showed how much they cared and were excited. After these instructions and inquiries, Dong Xuebing, who was initially relaxed, now felt a bit nervous. In the blink of an eye, he called Chang Juan and Chen Yunsong, asking them to be more vigilant. If any foreign businessmen came out or if any personnel from the Investment Promotion Bureau contacted them privately, they must notify him immediately.

He thought the real battle would be tomorrow, but considering it, the moment the foreign businessmen arrived, the war between various investment promotion departments had already begun.

It was time for dinner, so let's go out to eat.

Dong Xuebing grabbed his bag, ready to go out. But the next moment, the doorbell rang. Opening the door, there was an Investment Promotion Bureau staff member.

"Mayor Dong, Director Lu wants you to go to his room."

"Alright, I got it."

In a business room.

Lu Weiguo sat on the sofa, accompanied by several leaders and staff from the city's Investment Promotion Bureau, about five or six people, sitting or standing.

"Mayor Dong is here," Lu Weiguo looked at him.

Dong Xuebing nodded, "What can I do for you, Director Lu?"

Lu Weiguo gestured for him to sit down, "Nothing much. Just to inform you that there will be a small banquet around 8 in the evening. It's for the staff of various county-level Investment Promotion Bureaus. If you haven't had dinner, wait a bit, and then we'll have a task assignment meeting after dinner."

"Understood."

Lu Weiguo then looked at him and asked, "I heard you discussed the arrangement for tomorrow's itinerary with Ms. Zhang. What did she say?"

Dong Xuebing replied casually, "Ms. Zhang said we'll start by inspecting Zhen Shui County in the morning."

Lu Weiguo frowned, "Ms. Zhang told me we would discuss it tomorrow morning. When did she decide to go to Zhen Shui County in the morning? Is it already confirmed?"

Dong Xuebing nodded, "Ms. Zhang decided it."

The City's Investment Promotion Bureau people looked at Dong Xuebing, apparently not believing his words.

Lu Weiguo remained silent for a while, not saying anything.

Dong Xuebing wanted to see what trick Lu Weiguo was playing but didn't speak. freeweb . com

Finally, Lu Weiguo said, "Mayor Dong, here's the thing. I don't mean to prevent foreign businessmen from visiting your Zhen Shui County. After all, you invited them, and they should naturally prioritize your county. There's nothing wrong with that. However, the city organizes this investment promotion event, and you invited them in the name of the city's investment promotion event. The investment promotion event's purpose is to share resources and maximize investment implementation. So, you should also consider the comrades from the city and other districts and counties. Moreover, the City Party Secretary and Mayor also attended the dinner tonight, expressing the same sentiment. I think, maybe, let's not go to Zhen Shui County tomorrow. Let's schedule it for the day after tomorrow or the day after that. It doesn't make much difference. Tomorrow, let the foreign businessmen attend the investment promotion event, understand the project situation, and explore the city. After all, this is the urban area right outside the hotel, not far from Central Park. When foreign businessmen come, they can't skip the city's investment promotion event and go directly to Zhen Shui County for inspection, right? They arrived today, need to adjust to the time difference, and haven't even looked properly at the investment promotion event venue."

Don't go to our county?

Prioritize your city.

Dong Xuebing thought Lu Weiguo could be quite amusing. During the investment promotions fair, the city's Investment Promotion Bureau has been bothering Zhen Shui County. They want Zhen Shui County to make sacrifices first and consider the city and other districts and counties.

Nonsense.

Are you dreaming?

Dong Xuebing tried soft and hard approaches, "Oh, Director Lu, I can't decide. Ms. Zhang proposed to go to Zhen Shui County tomorrow morning. The inspection team is here for Zhen Shui County. How can I tell them not to go? They might have different thoughts if we make them wait for a few days. Besides, Ms. Zhang has already agreed and should have informed her inspection team members. It's too late to change now. If we suddenly change our minds, they might think I'm untrustworthy, affecting their impression of Meihe City. Don't you think so? So, I suggest we first let the foreign businessmen go to Zhen Shui County. After they finish the inspection, there will be plenty of time. They can consider visiting the city or other districts and counties for inspections. It's the same, isn't it?"

Lu Weiguo stared at him, "Going to Zhen Shui County takes over an hour, and the inspection team is already in the city. They will naturally choose the nearest option, saving the investors a lot of travel time."

Seeing that Lu Weiguo was not giving in, Dong Xuebing's tone turned harsher, "I don't understand what you mean, Director Lu. We contacted them for Zhen Shui County, and they want to visit Zhen Shui County the next day. Isn't that a normal thing? Why can't it be done now?"

Lu Weiguo said, "It's not that it can't be done. It's about postponing the inspection for a few days. It's all the same."

Having missed the opportunity, if they happen to be interested in projects from other counties and invest in them, similar projects in Zhen Shui County won't stand a chance to receive funding. It would be strange if they were treated equally.

Dong Xuebin said, "Isn't it the same if we postpone the inspection in the city and other districts and counties?"

"Can't Zhen Shui County have a bit of a broader perspective?" Lu Weiguo also felt a bit irritated by the remark.

Dong Xuebing retorted coldly, "I don't understand your meaning, Director Lu. We worked hard and invited so many foreign businessmen to the city. When the exhibition space in the park wasn't enough, we had to consider the overall situation and squeeze into the worst corner. When the hotel rooms were insufficient, we had to consider the overall situation and had a few people squeezed together. When domestic investors wanted to inspect our county, we had to consider the overall situation and obediently handed the investors over to Meiyang District. Now, we have to consider the overall situation again. We can't even consider the opinions of foreign businessmen. We must make sacrifices without hesitation, let the foreign businessmen go inspect other places first, and only then can we take our turn. Ridiculous! What are we doing? We came to participate in the investment promotion event, not to be treated like your grandchildren. Director Lu, I want to ask, the other districts and counties are part of Meihe City, so you care about them so much, but Zhen Shui County isn't. Who lacks a sense of the overall situation? You tell me."

Upon hearing this, Lu Weiguo was visibly angered.

"How can you speak like that?" one of the officials rebuked.

The other city's Investment Promotion Bureau members also stared at Dong Xuebing.

Towards Deputy Mayor Hua Li, Dong Xuebing might show some restraint. But, when it came to Lu Weiguo, the director of the Investment Promotion Bureau, Dong Xuebing, didn't hold back. Lu

Weiguo held a higher position, but Dong Xuebing didn't report to him directly. Their interactions were minimal, and in terms of the weight of their respective positions, Dong Xuebing, as the Deputy County Mayor, evidently had a higher position than a director of a poor city's Investment Promotion Bureau.

Shouting.

This guy was yelling.

Dong Xuebing looked at them and said, "This is how I speak. It might be straightforward, but it's reasonable. Director Lu was the one who brought up the issue of the overall situation first. So, let's discuss it. Director Lu, I hope you won't mind my straightforward words. I am here for the work and our county. We are seeking fairness, principles, and rules. I'm puzzled. Why is Zhen Shui County treated unfairly, unable to enjoy even the most basic rights? Tomorrow morning, I will bring the foreign inspection team back to Zhen Shui County. The matter has been settled, and I won't make any changes. If the people from the city's Investment Promotion Bureau find it inappropriate, they can directly contact the foreign businessmen. Their legs are on their body, and I can't tie them up. If they are willing to stay and inspect the city first, then I have no objections. So, Director Lu and comrades from the city's Investment Promotion Bureau don't look for me or ask me about the foreign businessmen's itinerary in the future. I am the Deputy County Mayor of Zhen Shui County, and I will only do my job well. I will do everything possible to ensure that foreign investments are implemented in our country. As for other districts and counties, I don't want to care, and I can't manage. It's beyond my authority. I am just a small Deputy County Mayor, and my hands are not that long. I don't have such great power."

The words were infuriating, but the people from the city's Investment Promotion Bureau couldn't refute them.

To be honest, the intentions of Hua Li and Lu Weiguo targeting Zhen Shui County were too obvious. The subordinates were well aware of it. After Zhen Shui County came to the investment promotion event, they didn't receive any favor from the city throughout the process. Instead, they faced various suppressions. Other districts and counties also joined in isolating them. Now that Zhen Shui County had turned the situation around and gained the confidence to challenge the city's Investment Promotion Bureau, expecting Zhen Shui County to make sacrifices voluntarily was clearly unrealistic. Everyone has their temper, and it's strange if someone agrees willingly, especially considering Dong Xuebing's well-known strong personality.

Chapter 1459: Make me drunk?

The evening arrived.

It was past eight o'clock.

In the hotel elevator, Dong Xuebing, Chang Juan, Chen Yunsong, and Gong Na were heading upstairs to attend the small banquet organized by the City Investment Promotion Bureau. There were only a few people in the elevator.

Fourth floor...

Fifth floor...

Sixth floor...

Chang Juan asked, "I heard you had a dispute with Director Lu?"

Chen Yunsong and Gong Na had heard about it, too, and they both looked at Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing shook his head. "What dispute? We just had a small disagreement."

Chen Yunsong said, "The city wants us to hand over the foreign businessmen, which is too much. Why should we?"

Dong Xuebing said, "Regardless of how they mess around, our plan remains unchanged. Gather at 8 am tomorrow, and contact the cars in advance. If the city doesn't lend us any, we'll find a way to get them from Zhen Shui County. If there aren't enough cars, contact a leasing company. Then, I'll take the foreign businessmen back to Zhen Shui County. You guys continue to hold down the investment promotion event and try to expand our advantages as much as possible. The foreign businessmen's visit to Zhen Shui County this time has given us a lot of momentum. We can't miss this opportunity. I hope it will also attract some domestic small investors. As for the others, we don't need to worry about them."

Gong Na blinked. "But what if the city..."

Dong Xuebing calmly said, "Cross the bridge when we come to it."

Chang Juan smiled, "Exactly. We'll stay the same amid the changes. Anyway, the foreign businessmen can't stay with them. We must go to our county first."

Dong Xuebing looked at them and said, "Let me mention one more thing in advance. The interests involved this time are significant. Similarly, there will be a lot of things happening below, and even some means that cannot be seen will be directed towards us. Everyone, be vigilant and be smart."

"Okay."

"We understand."

Ding! The elevator door opened.

The four of them stopped talking and walked out.

Outside, a staff member from the City Investment Promotion Bureau guided them. However, the person looked at Dong Xuebing with unfriendly eyes. After all, Dong Xuebing had confronted Lu Weiguo and the City Investment Promotion Bureau this time. They might have tried to cover it up in the past, so the people from the City Investment Promotion Bureau certainly wouldn't have a good attitude towards Dong Xuebing now.

Banquet hall.

The main door was open.

After Dong Xuebing entered with his team, he attracted everyone's attention. The dishes hadn't been served yet, but Lu Weiguo and several City Investment Promotion Bureau officials had already arrived. They were chatting with Chen Mingming and others at the main table. Others were also talking and chatting, but their eyes frequently glanced at Dong Xuebing.

The atmosphere was a bit strange.

No one came up to talk to Dong Xuebing's team. They probably heard about the argument between Dong Xuebing and Lu Weiguo.

Dong Xuebing didn't care. He led the team inside straightforwardly, looking for empty seats without saying anything.

Surprisingly, Lu Weiguo was the first to talk to Dong Xuebing, waving and saying, " Mayor Dong, sit here."

Hmm?

Is he calling me?

Dong Xuebing was a bit puzzled. He thought, what kind of show is Lu Weiguo playing? Dong Xuebing didn't think this guy would be so magnanimous. He had just confronted him, and there was no way he would not take it to heart. This old guy is not letting it go, so Dong Xuebing is on guard. He said, "Director Lu, it's unnecessary. Your place is almost full. I'll just sit with Old Chang and Xiao Chen. Any place is fine." After speaking, Dong Xuebing found the last table with a few people and sat down.

Chang Juan and the others followed suit.

Lu Weiguo didn't mind and continued chatting with people.

Soon, everyone had arrived, and all six tables were filled. The dishes were served one after another.

Lu Weiguo stood slightly and said, "Everyone, you've worked hard today. Before we start the meal, I'd like to say a few words. The foreign businessmen participating in the investment promotion conference this time have set a record in the history of Meihe City. The scale of foreign companies is incomparable to previous years. During lunch, the mayor highly praised the achievements of each investment promotion department, especially the comrades from Zhen Shui County. The city leaders also expressed appreciation. The comrades' efforts from Zhen Shui County are indispensable for the scale of this foreign investment inspection."

After finishing, Lu Weiguo led the applause.

People from other counties' investment promotion bureaus exchanged glances and also applauded.

Chen Yunsong and Gong Na looked at each other, not understanding why Lu Weiguo suddenly praised them. They wondered what kind of game Lu Weiguo was playing. Not only did he not cause trouble for Zhen Shui County, but he also praised them. However, everyone hoped their work achievements would be recognized. Chen Yunsong and Gong Na felt a bit proud seeing everyone applauding them. Although Dong Xuebing had arranged this, they hadn't put much effort into it.

Dong Xuebing clasped his hands in gratitude to the crowd, but he remained vigilant.

The applause stopped.

Lu Weiguo smiled and said, "The city specially approves this meal to reward everyone for their hard work over the past two days. It's already past working hours, and the investors have mostly rested. Therefore, there are no alcohol restrictions today. Feel free to drink, eat, and relax so we can better prepare for the investment promotion work tomorrow and next week. Well, let's start eating."

It was already this late, and many people were hungry. When Lu Weiguo's voice fell, everyone started eating. Some picked up food with chopsticks, while others poured wine.

The liquor was a local brand Dong Xuebing hadn't heard of.

Looking at the alcohol content, it was 52 degrees, considered high.

Suddenly, Lu Weiguo poured a full glass of wine and raised it towards Dong Xuebing's group. He said, "Come, County Mayor Dong, let's drink with our comrades from Zhen Shui County."

Dong Xuebing waved his hand. "Director Lu, our alcohol tolerance is not good."

Lu Weiguo smiled and said, "Who engaged in investment promotion work doesn't have good alcohol tolerance? I've raised my glass, and you haven't given face like this?"

Dong Xuebing said, "I usually don't drink. If it's possible, let's stop after one cup."

Lu Weiguo said nothing, raised his glass, and quickly drank all 150ml of wine.

Seeing this, Chen Yunsong had no choice but to drink a glass. Chang Juan and Gong Na didn't drink the entire glass; they just took a sip.

Now, only Dong Xuebing was left. Seeing everyone looking at him, Dong Xuebing had no choice. He poured a full glass of wine and slowly drank it. It took him half a minute to finish the 150 ml of wine.

Just after finishing, Chen Mingming raised his glass and stood up. "Mayor Dong, Zhen Shui County has made a name for itself this time. I'll have a drink with you. Haha."

Hmm...

Dong Xuebing finally realized that something was wrong.

What's the meaning of this? Are they trying to get me drunk?

Dong Xuebing's mind was quick, instantly understood Lu Weiguo had sinister motives. If he got drunk, he probably wouldn't be able to get up early tomorrow morning. He might even end up in the hospital, and without him contacting Ms. Zhang, Lu Weiguo and the others would likely find opportunities to keep Ms. Zhang and the others in the city. By then, they could use some means to detain the foreign investors for a more extended period, and the time for inspecting Zhen Shui County would be uncertain.

Chapter 1460: Xiao Dong is drunk?

It's 9 o'clock.

The night had fallen outside.

The hotel banquet hall was brightly lit, with people eating and drinking. Most of the attention was focused on Dong Xuebing's group.

"County Mayor Dong, come."

"Director Chen, are you trying to kill me?"

"Just a glass of wine. Don't be so disrespectful to me."

"It's not about disrespecting you; I just drank with Director Lu. I can't handle it anymore."

"Drinking is about alcohol tolerance. To drink or not is a matter of drinking etiquette."

"I don't usually drink and can't handle it. Let's just have a sip, just for the sake of it."

Chen Mingming, the director of the Meiyang District Investment Promotion Bureau, was urging Dong Xuebing to drink while Dong Xuebing continued to make excuses.

A City Investment Promotion Bureau staff member joined in, saying, "County Mayor Dong, Director Chen rarely toasts to people."

Dong Xuebing smiled, "I'm not in the mood today. Another day, perhaps."

Chen Mingming unhappily turned his empty glass upside down, saying, "I've already finished mine."

Seeing this, Chen Yunsong grabbed Dong Xuebing's wine glass and said, "Mayor Dong isn't feeling well today. Let me have this one for him." Subordinates should assist leaders in trouble. Chen Yunsong drank a glass on behalf of Dong Xuebing, but it was evident that his limit had been reached. Having just drunk 150 ml earlier, he now downed another 300 ml, and without eating anything in between, his face immediately turned red, and his eyes started to water. It seemed like he might even vomit if he took another sip.

Gong Na hurriedly supported Chen Yunsong to sit down.

Dong Xuebing nodded slightly at Chen Yunsong.

Chen Mingming glanced at them, smiled, and started eating.

The others also withdrew their gazes. They focused on their food.

However, after a short while, Yang Li, the director of the Xiang County Investment Promotion Bureau, stood up again. She walked over to Dong Xuebing's table with a smile, holding a full glass of wine. "Mayor Dong, let me toast to you."

Dong Xuebing smiled, "Director Yang, Director Lu is still here. I can't take over as the host. Why are you toasting me again?"

Yang Li chuckled, "Director Chen said that Zhen Shui County is the protagonist today. You've invited many powerful foreign investors, giving our Meihe City so much face. If the investments can be realized, they will make an irreplaceable contribution to our city's economic development. So, I must toast you first. You just had a drink with Director Chen, and now you must drink this one too."

At this point, many people had already figured out what was going on.

Zhang Juan and Chen Yunsong, Gong Na, and others felt a sinking feeling, understanding the intentions of these people.

This was an attempt to get Dong Xuebing drunk. If he was incapacitated, whether the foreign businessmen could smoothly visit Zhen Shui County tomorrow would become a big unknown.

This was too sinister.

Why were they always teaming up to bully Zhen Shui County?

Chen Yunsong, Gong Na, and others felt a bit annoyed. When Zhen Shui County's investment promotion results were not good, these people teamed up to mock and ostracize them, even snatching away their investors. Now that Zhen Shui County had achieved results and was about to turn the situation around, they were still teaming up to deal with them. Lu Weiguo's attitude and the

others from the city's were the same. Zhen Shui County was neither good nor bad in their eyes. They simply couldn't stand seeing Zhen Shui County doing well. They wanted to disrupt everything we achieved.

Disgusting.

This was the feeling of several of them.

In the eyes of Chen Yunsong, Gong Na, and others, this was a win-win situation. After inspecting Zhen Shui County first, when the foreign investors invested and were satisfied, they would naturally move on to other counties and districts for inspection. By then, everyone could earn profits based on their abilities. But now, the city does not want the investors Zhen Shui County brought in to invest in Zhen Shui County. They wanted to give away all the foreign investors they worked hard to attract to Lu Weiguo and others. They only wanted to mess things up. Once they take the investors away, ensure they are satisfied with the projects, and only then allow them to move on. They meant that Dong Xuebing and Zhen Shui County would benefit nothing.

It was frustrating.

The people from Zhen Shui County were thoroughly disheartened.

Chang Juan stood up abruptly, looking coldly at Yang Li. "If you want to drink, I'll accompany you."

Gong Na hurriedly said, "Let me do it, Director Chang." freeweb(n)ovel

Chen Yunsong pulled Gong Na back, saying, "I'll do it."

Chang Juan remarked, "You just had 300ml. You can't drink anymore."

"I'm fine," Chen Yunsong said, getting up unsteadily. Taking a breath, he added, "I'll do it."

The people from Zhen Shui County were ready to face the challenge. Even if they couldn't outdrink these people, they intended to bring down a few and save Dong Xuebing from drinking too much. Judging by Dong Xuebing's condition, the 150 ml of alcohol he had earlier had already taken a toll on him. While Chen Yunsong's alcohol tolerance might be slightly better than Gong Na's and Chen Yunsong's, it was clear they couldn't afford to let Mayor Dong drink too much. If Mayor Dong was genuinely intoxicated and incapacitated, it would fit their opponents' plan.

Dong Xuebing, noticing the situation, immediately gestured to stop them. "Everyone, sit down."

Chen Yunsong said, " Mayor Dong, they..."

Dong Xuebing interrupted, "Just sit and eat your meal."

Chen Yunsong and Gong Na hesitated for a moment but eventually sat down.

Chang Juan quietly reminded, "Dong Xuebing, you can't drink too much; they are planning to..."

"I know," Dong Xuebing replied in a hushed tone. He then looked at Ma Yanfen, holding her cup, and the others on the opposite side. Dong Xuebing's expression seemed genuinely distressed and somewhat drunk, pretending to regard the drink as poisonous. However, beneath his acting, Dong Xuebing had been secretly enjoying the unfolding situation.

"Bureau Chief Ma," Dong Xuebing said.

Ma Yanfen, without hesitation, said, "I'll drink to show my respect." She didn't drink quickly but finished the Baijiu in one go. After finishing, she raised her cup, "Chief Dong, you can't let someone else drink on your behalf."

Dong Xuebing, adept at pretending, looked at the cup with a headache and reluctantly picked it up. "Fine, I can't disregard Bureau Chief Ma."

Gong Na anxiously said, "Mayor Dong..."

Dong Xuebing looked at her and said, "Xiao Gong, if I collapse, it will be troublesome for you to carry me upstairs."

Chang Juan was frustrated seeing that Dong Xuebing couldn't read the situation and wanted to intervene. She even considered taking Dong Xuebing's place in drinking. Even if she collapsed after just one cup, it would at least save Dong Xuebing. Tomorrow, Dong Xuebing had to coordinate with foreign businesses. If he ended up in the hospital, things could get complicated.

However, Dong Xuebing kicked her under the table.

Startled, she blinked and looked at Dong Xuebing, choosing not to say anything.

Dong Xuebing stood up, raised his cup, and struggled to drink. It seemed like he couldn't continue at one point. He rubbed his temples, paused momentarily, and swallowed the last sips. Ma Yanfen applauded, saying, "Impressive drinking capacity." Others joined in, clapping and praising, "Mayor Dong is amazing."

Dong Xuebing, wearing an expression of pain, let out a belch and quickly shook his hand. "I can't, I can't." He sat back down and drank the tea Gong Na offered, drinking it quickly.

Many people looked at him.

Lu Weiguo glanced at Chen Mingming.

Before Dong Xuebing fully recovered, Chen Mingming stood up with another toast. "Mayor Dong, the drink just now was someone drinking on your behalf; it doesn't count. Since you've given face to Old Ma, you must also give face to me. Otherwise, it would be disrespectful to me. Come on, let's have another one."

Dong Xuebing covered his cup. "I can't, I can't."

Lu Weiguo smiled, "Old Chen said it to this point. Drink it, Mayor Dong. We're going back to sleep soon. One more won't hurt."

Dong Xuebing, with a headache, said, "I've already had enough."

Chen Mingming chuckled, "People who have had too much to drink never admit it. I think you still have some spare capacity. As usual, I'll go first."

Dong Xuebing tried to stop him, "No."

Ignoring him, Chen Mingming downed the cup. "Now it's your turn."

Dong Xuebing had no choice. Amid the crowd's cheers, he struggled to finish another cup, taking two minutes and looking visibly strained.

"Good!"

"Cheers!"

Chen Yunsong and Gong Na were extremely worried, but Dong Xuebing, on the other hand, seemed to enjoy the situation.

Drinking contest.

Trying to get me drunk.

Are you joking with me?

In the depths of Dong Xuebing's eyes was a look as if he were watching fools. He had been looking forward to teaching these people a lesson. Well, now that they had come to him, they couldn't blame him.

Dong Xuebing's fighting ability was a legend among almost everyone present. He could take on nearly twenty people without a scratch even with a broken body. But Dong Xuebing's alcohol tolerance was something that probably no one in the room knew about. Not even his old colleague, Chang Juan, was familiar with it. There was no one present who had worked in Fenzhou City, and no one had heard about Dong Xuebing's past achievements. If there was anyone who had worked in Fenzhou City and had the intention of getting the God of Plagues drunk, they would probably think these people were crazy. In the past, no one dared to compete in drinking with the God of Plagues in the Fenzhou City government.

That's right.

Not a single person.