

PAW 1491

Chapter 1491: Morning

Next day.

In the early morning.

Drip, drip, drip, drip.

The alarm clock rang, followed by the sound of yawning.

Dong Xuebing, still in a drowsy state, stretched lazily, felt around, and picked up his phone from the pillow. He turned off the alarm, checked the time, patted his forehead, and prepared to get up. He slept in the middle, with Zhang Longjuan on the left and Xu Yan on the right. Sister Zhang's sleeping posture was somewhat unconventional, leaning towards Dong Xuebing, and he felt his thighs squeezed between two plump and tender legs. On the other hand, Sister Xu slept soundly, lying flat with her hands on her abdomen, like a sleeping beauty that no one wanted to disturb.

"Uh?"

"What time is it, Xuebing?"

"A little past six."

"Why set the alarm so early?"

"I don't want to be late. Better early than late."

Xu Yan and Zhang Longjuan were also awakened, but they kept their eyes closed, still feeling sleepy.

Reluctantly, Dong Xuebing crawled out of the warm bed, got off, found his slippers, and said, Zhang Longjuan said lazily. "It's too early to get up. Let me sleep a while. Whenever it's ready, call me."

Dong Xuebing chuckled and agreed, "Alright."

Xu Yan opened her eyes and said, "Forget it, I'll do it."

Dong Xuebing tapped her shoulder, "No, you rest. I've got this."

"Oh, you, you've been busy with the business fair lately and haven't rested well. Don't worry about us." Xu Yan has always been very indulgent towards Dong Xuebing, almost like she treats her son.

Zhang Longjuan looked up and said, "Old Xu, just take it easy. Your son, with his combat power, can handle anything. He's the type who can face danger without changing his expression, whether walking through a knife-edge or facing a rain of bullets. After just a few days of the business fair, he looks exhausted. Come on, you're too fond of him. Don't pamper the kid too much. You're already in your forties, and you've had your share of illnesses, big and small. Let the young man busy himself." Gracefully stretching, Zhang Longjuan continued, "And you've been caring for this little thing all night. Let him take care of both of us in the morning. If you don't call him, who else will? Right, Old Xu?"

Ignoring her, Xu Yan pushed her away, "Stop teasing me."

"Hehe, I didn't expect you, an old lady, to be quite passionate last night. I could hear everything from my room. So, Old Xu, let him take care of both of us in the morning. If not him, then who?" With a playful smile, Zhang Longjuan leaned against the bare-skinned Xu Yan and whispered in her ear, "And I didn't expect you, an old lady, to be so good last night. I heard it and got excited. So, Old Xu, let him take care of both of us in the morning. If not him, then who?"

"Alright, breakfast is ready. You two hurry up."

Soon, Xu Yan and Zhang Longjuan got up, holding hands, wrapped in towels, and went into the bathroom together to brush their teeth and wash up.

Dong Xuebing began to set the breakfast on the table.

Zhang Longjuan came out first after washing up, still in that towel. She sat on the chair with a cheerful smile, her chest bouncing, causing a slight tremor in the plump flesh on her thighs. Without waiting for Xu Yan, she picked up the chopsticks and started eating.

"Xiao Bing."

"Hmm?"

"Did Old Xu talk about me behind my back yesterday?"

"No, she didn't, why would she."

"Heh, I don't know about her. She must have told you."

"Cough she didn't."

At this point, Xu Yan also came out. She was already dressed, but it was a very homely outfit. A pair of gray sports pants and a thin, low-fabric bodybuilding top in white. Dong Xuebing didn't know if she was wearing underwear underneath, but looking at the lack of imprints and traces, it's likely that she wasn't, adding to the allure.

"Oh, quite beautiful," Zhang Longjuan exclaimed.

Xu Yan smiled and shook her head.

"Isn't that right, Xiao Bing?" Zhang Longjuan asked.

Dong Xuebing immediately said, "Exactly, Sister Xu looks good in anything."

Zhang Longjuan quickly changed the subject, "So, who do you think is more beautiful between the two of us?"

Dong Xuebing touched his nose, "Both are beautiful, both are beautiful."

Seeing Dong Xuebing's foolish appearance, she teased here and there. This guy is more cunning and knows more than anyone else. In such an environment, Dong Xuebing generally adopts only one strategy, pretending to be silly and confused, which is also his area of expertise.

After the meal.

Zhang Longjuan wiped her mouth with a napkin, "Alright, full of food and drink, it's time to go. I'll go to the hotel to find my friends first, then head to the airport."

Dong Xuebing said, "I'll leave after washing the dishes."

Xu Yan pulled him, "Forget about it, don't bother, let's go."

Dong Xuebing didn't act up anymore, "So... we're leaving?"

Xu Yan nodded, "Next time you come, call in advance. If you can, come back to develop in the domestic market. So many things have happened in Fuzhou, and it's unsafe."

Zhang Longjuan, unusually serious, said, "I know. I've already prepared to gradually move the business back."

Xu Yan nodded, turned around, straightened Dong Xuebing's collar, patted him, and smoothed his shirt a bit, "See Old Zhang off. Drive slowly."

Zhang Longjuan laughed, "I don't know when I'll be back this time, probably not for a few months at least. Come on, let's hug the three of us?"

Xu Yan smiled and gently opened her arms.

Zhang Longjuan laughed and hugged her, then said, "Xiao Bing, come on, what are you looking at?"

Dong Xuebing blinked and joined them, hugging the two of them tightly. Due to the tight embrace, their foreheads were pressed together.

Zhang Longjuan, playfully said, "Shall we have another kiss, the three of us?"

Xu Yan said, "Stop it, just get going."

Chapter 1492: Morning

Morning.

Provincial capital.

Inside the airport.

"Mayor Dong, we're leaving."

"Alright, have a safe journey."

"The waiting hall is ahead. You can't go in. Go back."

"Okay, after you arrive safely, call me to let me know."

"I will. Matt and the others also said goodbye, saying it was a pleasure to meet you."

"Can you help me translate? I'm honored to know everyone and wish you great prosperity."

After a few farewells, Zhang Longjuan waved gracefully to Dong Xuebing. She turned around and took the elevator with a dozen foreign businessmen to the waiting hall to go through security. In public places, Dong Xuebing didn't have much to say to Zhang Longjuan. The two of them had already spoken privately on the way there. Dong Xuebing watched everyone leave and waited until he lost sight of Zhang Longjuan and the others after the escalator. Then he turned and left.

As soon as he left the airport, his phone rang.

It was a call from Jiang Fangfang. "Has she left, Mayor Dong?"

There were too many people, and Dong Xuebing couldn't hear clearly. He covered one ear and said, "She just boarded the plane. She should be going through security and boarding now."

"Okay, come back now."

"Yes, I'll go to your place first."

"No need, return to the Investment Promotion Bureau first and handle the contracts."

"Alright, I'll go to the County Party Committee compound later. I'll give you a summary of the work during the investment promotion meeting."

"If you can organize it, organize it. It's not that urgent. We are worried about your and your colleagues' physical and mental state at the Investment Promotion Bureau. From the preparation of the investment promotion to the investment promotion meeting, you haven't taken a break for a day for more than two weeks. Even an iron man couldn't endure it. So, I've specially approved five days off for all my colleagues at the Investment Promotion Bureau. Take a good rest and get your body back in shape. After the rest, you will still be busy when the first funds for many projects arrive. Rest up and be ready."

"Haha, I'll thank you on behalf of Old Zheng and the others."

He arrived at the parking lot, hung up the phone, got in the car, and drove back to the county.

Morning.

Zhen Shui County.

Investment Promotion Bureau courtyard.

After parking and going upstairs, Dong Xuebing saw a lively scene in the office area. Chang Juan leaned on the desk, chatting happily with Cheng Yujie, Gong Na, Xiao Hong, and several other women. Chen Yunsong also occasionally inserted a few words with a smile. No one was working, and there wasn't much work left, to be honest.

"Cough, cough."

"Hey, Mayor Dong."

"Mayor Dong, you're back."

Everyone hurriedly put away their laughter and returned to their seats. These days, Dong Xuebing has already established authority in everyone's hearts.

But Dong Xuebing wasn't a rigid person. Seeing everyone dispersing, he smiled and said, "What are you chatting about? Let me join in the fun, too."

"Nothing much."

"I heard you were talking about tourism."

"Yeah, we were discussing the best places for tourism."

"Hehe, you guys are talking about the right topic."

"Well, Mayor Dong, what does this mean?"

"Old Zheng, everyone, gather around. I have a few things to say."

Hearing Dong Xuebing's voice, Zheng Dayou came out of the office.

Dong Xuebing gathered everyone and said, "The county has just approved it. Today, everyone should put in some extra effort to sort out the contracts and handle current matters, and starting tomorrow, everyone gets a five-day vacation. If you want to travel, go ahead. If you want to sleep at home, do that. I won't interfere. Hehe. As for the four or five days of overtime during statutory holidays, you can claim overtime pay for that or consider it annual leave."

Chang Juan laughed, "That sounds great."

Cheng Yujie sighed, "Finally, some rest."

Gong Na and Xiao Hong were also very happy. "Thank you, Mayor Dong."

"No need to thank me." Dong Xuebing looked at them and said, "Whether it's the bonus or the vacation, it's all the result of everyone's hard work. I forgot to mention yesterday, in the busy schedule, that you all did a fantastic job at the investment promotion conference." After saying that, Dong Xuebing applauded, and everyone joined in.

Clap, clap, clap.

Everyone clapped and cheered, especially Gong Na and Xiao Hong.

Under Dong Xuebing's leadership this time, the Investment Promotion Bureau completed an almost impossible task. Naturally, everyone was in high spirits, benefiting from it. Besides the pre-arranged rewards and promotions, substantial bonuses, which would soon appear in their accounts, awaited them. In addition, there was political capital, honor, and the impending expansion of functional powers. These were not things that could be bought with money. Among them, Xiao Hong was particularly sentimental. She was doing well in the county government initially, although she didn't have the best interpersonal relationships in the office. At least she lived a stable life without worrying about food or clothing. Later, Yao Cui pushed her into the Investment Promotion Bureau, which she was reluctant about. After all, this department was known for being deserted. In government circles, everyone knew that. However, in this department, which even had to share office space with a botanical research institute and another department, they miraculously attracted an investment of two billion. Xiao Hong almost loved Yao Cui now. Thinking about that bonus, she couldn't help but want to hug Yao Cui and give her a few kisses.

"Everything that needs to be said has been said. That's it." Dong Xuebing looked at the time; it was already noon and said, "Let's adjourn. It's also time for lunch."

Chang Juan looked at him, "Did you bring lunch?"

Dong Xuebing glanced at them, "Did you all bring lunch?"

Cheng Yujie smiled, "Yes, want to have mine?"

Gong Na quickly took out a full lunch box from the drawer under the front desk, "I brought a bit too much today. If you don't mind, you can have some."

Zheng Dayou chuckled, "My wife also made lunch for me, but what I brought may not be enough."

Dong Xuebing laughed, "Old Zheng, are you being thrifty? Considering your appearance, your wife must be skilled in cooking. No, I have to taste it. Everyone, share some with me."

Chang Juan magically pulled out an empty lunch box, "I have an extra one."

Gong Na immediately said, "I'll go heat the food. Let me borrow the microwave oven upstairs."

"We don't have a microwave oven here?" Dong Xuebing was speechless.

Zheng Dayou said, "The old one broke down like an air conditioner. It doesn't turn on when you plug it in. We had someone try to fix it, but in the end, it wasn't repaired. It was treated as scrap."

Xiao Hong helped Gong Na carry the lunch boxes upstairs to borrow a microwave oven from the Botanical Research Institute. In no time, they brought back several fragrant and steaming lunch boxes.

"Mayor Dong, let me serve you."

"Hehe, thank you. Did you make this yourself, Xiao Gong?"

"Yeah, it's not too busy today. I cooked the dishes myself this morning."

"It looks good. Let me taste it. Mmm, delicious."

Each person scooped some food onto Dong Xuebing's plate, and everyone sat together to enjoy the meal.

Dong Xuebing was not extravagant at all. Sometimes, extravagance and waste were just for appearances and work. On the contrary, he liked the current atmosphere in the office. When working, focus on work; during leisure time, Dong Xuebing prefers to get along well with his subordinates.

While chatting and laughing, everyone enjoyed their lunch.

Suddenly, Chang Juan smiled and said, "Mayor Dong, a few of us just discussed and thought of going to the neighboring province for a few days. Would you like to join us?"

Dong Xuebing shook his head, "You all have a five-day vacation. Go and relax. I won't be able to go; there are still many things to handle in the county. I'm not free." Dong Xuebing would certainly take a day or two off for rest, but five days was impossible. He couldn't afford to be away with so many responsibilities and overseeing multiple departments.

Chang Juan looked at Zheng Dayou, "Director Zheng?"

Zheng Dayou smiled, "You guys go ahead. I'll pass."

"How many people are going?" Dong Xuebing asked.

Cheng Yujie said, "Director Chang, I, Director Chen, Xiao Gong, and Xiao Hong, just the five of us, without our families."

Dong Xuebing nodded and took out his car keys, handing them to Chang Juan, "The neighboring province isn't far; you can go on a self-driving tour. Take my car."

"Oh, how can we accept that?" Cheng Yujie hurriedly said.

Chen Yunsong also said, "That's a Land Rover you're talking about. What if I damage it? I can use the Passat that was recently assigned to the bureau."

Dong Xuebing smiled, "That's a government car. Taking it out for personal use would cause a stir. But my car is private; it's not a problem. Alright, don't be overly polite. Consider it a reward for everyone's hard work these past few days."

Chang Juan smiled and said, "Hehe, thank you."

Dong Xuebing stretched his shirt, "It's a bit hot. Oh, right, the air conditioning. That's right, the air conditioning is also broken." Dong Xuebing was helpless, saying, "Okay, Director Zheng, have someone write a note and go directly to the Finance Bureau. I'll see if the finance can still allocate money. By then, we can equip the office with new things. This can't go on. As for the office space, we'll change it in the future. At the very least, get an independent office building. Also, with so many projects coming in this time, we'll need to recruit people in the future. This office area won't be enough." With such a large sum of money, the county would soon be financially comfortable. As the leader in charge of finance and the person responsible for attracting investment, Dong Xuebing certainly had the right to allocate this money directly or indirectly generated by the finance. Naturally, he would prioritize the departments under his jurisdiction.

Cheng Yujie immediately said, "Mayor Dong, you're wise."

Chang Juan and Chen Yunsong also flattered, clapping a few times.

Everyone had long wanted to change locations, especially expanding the Investment Promotion Bureau and recruiting people, which they valued the most. There were only a few people in the office, all officials and leaders, but there were hardly any subordinates to command. This was not what it should be. Changing work locations and expanding after recruiting people would make a significant difference. Cadres would have their own offices, and each department would have subordinates to command. What a feeling it would be, and how different it would be once they expanded! Everyone imagined it, feeling that the future was bright. They were also grateful to have stayed in the Investment Promotion Bureau. With the benefits, they would undoubtedly remember Dong Xuebing's kindness because Dong Xuebing essentially brought about the prosperity of the Investment Promotion Bureau.

Finance Bureau

Investment Promotion Bureau

County Government Office

Dong Xuebing had already consolidated the departments under his jurisdiction three months into his tenure. This aspect also reflected the work capability of Dong Xuebing, the leader.

Chapter 1493: Asking for a promotion

One day

Ten days

Twenty days

In the blink of an eye, a month has passed."

This morning, just as the sky brightened, Dong Xuebing, still in bed, opened his eyes. After stretching lazily, he lingered in bed and turned on the television, which he hadn't watched for a long time. He said "a long time" because he had been busy this month and hadn't turned on the TV for many days. Except for the initial rest to recuperate, the rest of the month was spent in intense and busy work inspecting the progress of dormitory reconstruction projects, following up on the projects brought in by investment meetings, supervising the disbursement of the first batch of project funds,

attending county government meetings, county party committee meetings, and dealing with road repair matters for Mayor Jiang. After running around for so many days, Dong Xuebing had finally completed most of the tasks and could finally take a few days off.

Feeling content, he listened to music and smoked a cigarette.

The rest, after being busy, was indeed enjoyable.

After lazing in bed for more than an hour, Dong Xuebing finally got out of bed. After brushing his teeth and washing up, he ate a hearty breakfast.

After breakfast, Dong Xuebing started making phone calls one by one.

"Hello, Mom, what are you doing? Hehe, yes, I have time today. I'm on vacation for a few days, finally able to catch my breath. I know, I know, I'm fine. I'm paying attention. How's Uncle Yang? Okay, that's good. You also take care of yourself. If you need anything, call me. Oh, yeah, Yunxuan and the child are with you? Let Yunxuan answer the phone. Yunxuan, hehe, do you miss me? Oh, what's there to be embarrassed about? Where's the child? Let me hear my clever daughter's voice. Yo, you're obedient. Kiss Daddy. Do you miss Daddy? What does ya ya ya' mean? Oh, hehe. Dad will try to come back early, and then we'll play. Be good and listen to Mommy, understand? No naughty behavior." The child couldn't talk yet, but Dong Xuebing chattered away.

The call lasted for more than twenty minutes.

After hanging up, Dong Xuebing called Xie Huilan, "Huilan, are you awake? Why are you in another meeting? It's only a few o'clock. Hehe, alright, I know you're busy. You, as the big city mayor, we small citizens, understand. Yes, you can see that I've been in a good mood lately. I mentioned the investment situation in our county to you before, right? That's right. It's all about achievements. How's your stomach? That's good. Have you taken the ultrasound pictures? Is the baby healthy? Good. By the way, remember to buy a radiation-proof suit. Don't sit in front of the computer all day. Take care of yourself. Call me if you need anything."

Xu Yan.

Yu Meixia.

Geng Yuehua.

Zhang Longjuan.

Except for Jiang Fangfang, whom he met at the office yesterday, Dong Xuebing called everyone.

After talking with them, Dong Xuebing realized that the number of people he had to call during his breaks was increasing. Initially, it was only Xie Huilan and Qu Yunxuan. Later, Yu Meixia was added, followed by Geng Yuehua, Xu Yan, and Zhang Longjuan. After returning to the office, he must add Jiang Fangfang to the list. Thinking about this, Dong Xuebing couldn't help but smile bitterly. He felt that he was beyond redemption, too obsessed with beautiful women. Whenever he saw a beautiful woman, he would forget everything else. Well, he had to be careful about this in the future and make a change.

After chatting with them, Dong Xuebing opened the window and leaned on the windowsill to smoke. It also aroused his homesickness, and once again, he thought about the transfer matter. He decided to ask Xie Huilan if it was possible. He knew that Xie Huilan probably couldn't decide

herself, but he still wanted to talk directly to his family. Rather than letting his wife pass messages in the middle, it would be better for Dong Xuebing to call himself. He had only been in office for four months, and it might be too early to request a transfer. Extinguishing the cigarette butt, Dong Xuebing thought for a moment. He didn't have much hope, but he still picked up his phone.

Dong Xuebing contemplated for a moment on whom to call, hesitating to contact Xie Huilan's father. Eventually, he decided to call his mother-in-law, thinking she might be more approachable.

Dong Xuebing dialed the number, took a deep breath, and waited for the call to be answered.

"Hello, Xiao Bing," Han Jing answered.

"Mom, good morning," Dong Xuebing immediately greeted.

"Hehe, good. I heard from your wife that you've been busy lately," Han Jing replied.

"Yes, it's been hectic, but luckily I have a few days off now."

"We miss you, both your father and I."

"I'm a bit rushed these two days. Let's forget about coming back for now. I miss you and Dad, too. Oh, by the way, Mom, I want to discuss something. If it's okay, keep it between us, and don't tell Dad."

"So secretive Go on."

"Well, Mom, I'm considering getting promoted to the Division Chief level. What do you think?"

"I thought you were going to say something big. You kid, are you aiming for an official position?"

"Oh, Mom, it's just that I miss you. If I go back, I'll be closer, and I can spend more time with you and Dad. Also, Huilan is about to give birth, and I'm worried when I'm not with her."

"You've only been in Zhen Shui County for four months."

"Yes, it's short, but I've achieved much at work." Dong Xuebing boasted on the phone, "You really should come here and see. Before, Zhen Shui County was a nationally impoverished county. But since I arrived, I brought in 50 million RMB in funding to ease the county's pressure. Before the dormitory collapsed, I proposed a critical plan to rebuild the family quarters, and I took over as the overall commander of the project. Later, I contacted projects everywhere at the investment fair and brought in two billion investments for the county. Before, even a few million brought into the county was considered good. This is how many times more it is. The road construction project is about to start. Not to brag, Mom, but my presence here has significantly changed our county."

"You kid, stop bragging."

"It's not bragging, Mom, it's true."

"Alright, I've heard about the general situation. Your father and I have never doubted your work capabilities. Well done."

"Thank you for your praise, Mom. Once the promotion is confirmed, I will work even harder."

"Oh, if it's not confirmed, you won't work harder. Alright, I roughly understand. If you bring out another impressive performance, Mom will help you with the transfer back. Otherwise, although

you've achieved outstanding results in four months, it's not enough for such a substantial promotion. Mom can't easily speak for you in this case. Understand?"

"You said that."

"I said it."

"Got it."

Chapter 1494: Central Science Academy's people are here

Morning.

Dong Xuebing's apartment.

"Mom, this is a promise."

"Yes. I promise you. Work hard."

"Anyway, get ready. This will happen anytime."

"You first show some results before talking about it, hehe."

"Sure, don't disturb your rest. Wait for my good news."

"Okay, but don't engage in any superficial projects, alright?"

"Not. Mom, you should know me. I'm naturally inclined to do practical things for the common people. How could I use superficial achievements to deceive others?"

"That's good. Go rest."

"Alright, take care of yourself and Dad."

After hanging up with his mother-in-law, Dong Xuebing felt relieved. At least he got Han Jing's assurance, which was enough for him. His mother-in-law's status was undoubtedly influential, and Dong Xuebing needed that assurance. Once he produced another decent performance, he could transfer back. Dong Xuebing believed it wouldn't be too difficult, maybe a month if things moved quickly, or two months at most. Regarding the specific approach to achieving results, Dong Xuebing hadn't figured it out yet.

Playing some music, Dong Xuebing reclined on his bed again. Leaning back, he took out his laptop, logged into QQ, and started browsing the internet.

Cough, cough.

Ding, ding, ding.

Many unprocessed messages popped up.

Dong Xuebing closed them one by one. In the friends list, he noticed that Jiang Fangfang was also online. It was Friday, and Dong Xuebing had a day off, while Jiang Fangfang probably still had work to do. She might be in the office, either browsing the internet or researching.

Dong Xuebing typed affectionately: "Sister Jiang."

After a while, Jiang Fangfang's avatar flashed, and she replied, "Here."

Dong Xuebing typed quickly: "What are you busy with?"

Ding, ding, ding. Jiang Fangfang responded, "Reviewing materials."

"Do you have time tonight? How about you come to my place for dinner, or I can come to yours." Dong Xuebing had been busy with work these days and hadn't spent time alone with Jiang Fangfang since their visit to her mother's house. Moreover, it had been a while since he had a proper conversation with her.

Jiang Fangfang replied, "Busy tonight."

Dong Xuebing asked, "What about tomorrow or the day after?"

Jiang Fangfang replied, "Tomorrow won't work either. The day after tomorrow is fine."

"Alright, let's set it for Sunday night."

"Sure, let's do that. I have to get back to work now."

After arranging the meeting, Dong Xuebing lay on the bed again, feeling slightly satisfied. Then, he thought about the matter of achieving political achievements. He had considered asking Jiang Fangfang, but she seemed busy, so he decided to leave it for later.

At that moment, his phone rang.

The number displayed was from Aunt Zhong.

Dong Xuebing quickly answered, "Hello, Professor Zhou."

On the other end, the magnetic voice of Zhong Lizhen rang out, "I called you twice yesterday, but both times you were on another call."

"Hi, I've been swamped lately, and my phone hasn't stopped ringing. Uh, is there something you need?" Dong Xuebing expressed concern, "Is it another health issue? If so, let me know. Your working conditions, with no day or night, working twenty-four hours a day, are not good. You need to pay attention to work-life balance."

"When did I say I'm not feeling well?"

"Cough, no, so what do you need?"

"You go to the airport to pick up someone tomorrow morning and then send them back to the airport in the evening."

"Sure, picking up people is not a problem. I'll make arrangements. They come and leave on the same day, right? Do you want me to show them around and play with them? I'm all for helping you with anything." Dong Xuebing naturally cared about Zhong Lizhen's affairs.

"Two people, you can pick them up and bring them to your county. They are researchers from the Chinese Academy of Sciences."

"Why would researchers come to our county if not for leisure?"

Zhong Lizhen's tone became somewhat low, "I said last time that it's about the site selection for the Chinese Academy of Sciences Experimental Base. You persistently asked me to take care of it. The funds have already arrived, and they are starting to select a site. I recommended your Zhen Shui County. The researchers are there to assess your county's environmental and geographical conditions. This is just a preliminary investigation. If there are no problems, within a month, an

academician from the Chinese Academy of Sciences will go down with a team to coordinate with your county. Once the negotiations are successful, it will be finalized. Oh, I've been busy for you here, recommending you, saying good things about you, and you haven't taken it seriously. You've forgotten it all."

So that's what it's about.

Dong Xuebing suddenly slapped his forehead, "Hey, look at my memory. No, it's just that these days have been too busy and tiring. My mind is a bit muddled."

"Then I'd better recommend another place. This site selection is a big deal, and the projects to be carried out in the Experimental Base in the future are also crucial. I doubt whether you can cooperate well with the construction of the Experimental Base with your work attitude. In recent days, many counties and cities have come, and other research institutes and academicians have also recommended many places as references. If you can't handle it, someone else will take over." Zhong Lizhen's tone was not very good.

Dong Xuebing quickly smiled, "Look, why are you angry, Aunt Zhong? I didn't mean that. You can rest assured that we will take it seriously and cooperate wholeheartedly with the work of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Don't give it to others; it must come to our place. There is a flight tomorrow morning. I'll pick them up personally. Thank you, Auntie, you've helped us a lot."

Zhong Lizhen, on the other end, remained silent.

Dong Xuebing hurriedly said, "So it's settled. Rest assured, I'll take care of it. I was at fault just now. Please, don't be angry."

After a moment of silence, "8:30 tomorrow morning at the military airport on the outskirts of your provincial capital."

Dong Xuebing smiled, "No problem, I'll arrive early and warmly welcome the comrades from the Chinese Academy of Sciences."

Zhong Lizhen responded with a faint "Hmm" and said, "I've given them your phone number. They are two students from my research department. They will contact you when the time comes."

"Your students, sure."

"But let me make it clear first. Whether the site can be finalized in your county depends on the actual situation of your county. Although I am in charge of this and will personally supervise some projects in the future, I have the first recommendation right for the site selection. However, whether it can be finalized is not certain. It's not something I can decide alone. Be mentally prepared first. If the actual situation of your county does not meet the site selection requirements, then there is nothing I can do. I can't abandon principles because of personal relationships. That would be irresponsible."

"I understand. By the way, did Academician Chen Xuekai also recommend our county?"

"No, he didn't."

"You didn't tell your teacher?"

"I'm good at research but not at asking for favors."

"Uh, no problem. Can I talk to Academician Chen?"

"Up to you."

"Okay, by the way, what is the main direction of the research projects at this experimental base? You didn't tell me last time. Can you give me an idea?"

"The projects are confidential; I can't disclose them."

"Well, that's fine. Anyway, thank you for this, Aunt Zhong. Regardless of the outcome, I appreciate your help. When I return to Beijing, I'll treat you to a big meal."

"No need. Just cooperate well with the site selection work."

Zhong Lizhen spoke rigidly, lacking warmth.

But Dong Xuebing knew Professor Zhong had a cold appearance but a warm heart. She recommended Zhen Shui County because of Dong Xuebing, which was evident. She cared a lot about Dong Xuebing's affairs. Moreover, Dong Xuebing had long been accustomed to Professor Zhong's stern tone.

After hanging up, Dong Xuebing didn't put down his phone and directly called Professor Chen Xuekai.

Dialing

The call went through.

"Hello, Academician Chen, it's Xiao Dong."

"Hello, Xiao Dong. Do you need something?"

"A little bit. Are you busy?"

"It's okay, what's up?"

"Well, it's about the new experimental base of the Chinese Academy of Sciences."

"Hehe, you're well-informed. Yes, what's the matter?"

"We also want to strive for it in our county. By the way, I'm currently working in Zhen Shui County."

"Zhen Shui County, I see. So, Li Zhen recommended it, huh? Well, there should be a visit by inspection personnel tomorrow, right?"

"I'm a bit unsure. Do you think our county has a good chance?"

"This is under Li Zhen's responsibility. Since she recommended you, as long as the environmental conditions of your county are roughly okay, it should be fine."

"Oh, that's good."

"And don't worry. If there are any problems, I'll help you then. I owe you a big favor, and now that you've asked, I won't take it lightly."

"Thank you so much."

"The premise is that your county complies with the site selection requirements. Even if there are some issues, they shouldn't be too serious."

"I understand."

"Okay, I'll hang up for now."

The Experimental Base

The Experimental Base

Dong Xuebing paced around in the room, his mood hard to calm. He stretched lazily toward the window, feeling like he was bursting into laughter.

Things happen as you think about them.

Didn't Mother-in-law say to get another qualification? Even before her words settled, political achievements were already rolling in.

The importance of this project is self-evident, and it's not even a superficial project. If Dong Xuebing could implement this experimental base, it would undoubtedly be one of his political achievements. Of course, the premise is that Dong Xuebing needs to hold the reins of the science and technology department. This needs to be handled urgently. Thinking about how to do it, it seems that the technology department has always been under Deputy County Chief Cai Boyang. That's not too good to handle. But regardless, Dong Xuebing has made up his mind. For his plans, he must achieve this political achievement. Moreover, he must leave a margin. No one can talk about this matter; otherwise, it will cause trouble if it's known. He needs to secretly take the Chinese Academy of Sciences people for an inspection tomorrow and then quickly take over the science and technology department. This is the only foolproof way.

Chapter 1495: –Site Inspection

The next day.

Early morning, around six o'clock.

Dong Xuebing got up early, facing the morning sun, and went downstairs.

At the bottom of the building, Deputy Mayor Ci Boyang and his wife had just walked out from another unit's corridor. Each was carrying a bag and throwing garbage into the recycle bins.

"Mayor Dong." Cai Boyang saw him.

Dong Xuebing smiled, "Deputy Cai, up so early." freeweb . com

Cai Boyang nodded, "Having breakfast with my wife. You're up early, too."

His wife smiled, "Working overtime today, Chief Dong?"

"No, I took a few days off. Just wanted to stroll outside," Dong Xuebing smiled, "Go to the suburbs and enjoy the scenery."

Cai Boyang said, "Sounds like a good plan."

"Mainly for some exercise. Ha, I'm off." Dong Xuebing got into his car.

His relationship with Ci Boyang had never been good. Even when they met, they just exchanged a casual greeting.

Dong Xuebing drove out of the residential compound and first went to Yao Cui's breakfast stall. Since Yao Cui wasn't there, probably working overtime at the county committee's compound, Dong Xuebing chatted with Yao's parents for a while. After having breakfast, he checked the time and felt it was about right. He got into his car and drove straight to the provincial capital. On the way, Dong Xuebing answered calls from several units some inviting him for lunch, others seeking his approval on matters. Dong Xuebing replied briefly and didn't disclose his whereabouts. The secrecy was well maintained; he didn't even inform anyone about his plans, not even Jiang Fangfang or Yao Cui. After all, the matter hadn't been finalized yet. Today was just about taking the delegation for an inspection. It wasn't appropriate to say or discuss it.

Provincial capital.

A little after eight o'clock.

Dong Xuebing parked his car far outside the military airport, as he couldn't get any closer due to the security lockdown.

Five minutes.

Ten minutes.

Finally, the call came.

It was an unfamiliar number and an unfamiliar male voice.

"Hello, is this Dong Xuebing?"

"Yes, it's me. Who's this?"

"Just call me Xiao Qian. We're from the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Our teacher instructed us to call you once we arrive. She said you would take us down for inspection."

"Oh, hello. Have you arrived?"

"We've arrived at the military airport in the western suburbs of Qingxi Province."

"I'm here too, but I can't get in. You guys come out. I'm on the southwest main road. It might take a bit longer. Look for a Range Rover; that's my car, black."

"Okay, see you in a bit."

"Alright, see you in a bit."

After hanging up the phone, Dong Xuebing looked around.

About five minutes later, a young man and a woman carrying luggage walked towards him. They were relatively young, around their twenties, similar in age to Dong Xuebing. The young man looked scholarly with glasses, while the girl was delicate with an ordinary appearance.

They met.

Xiao Qian looked at him, "Are you Dong Xuebing?"

"Yes, it's me. Hello, both of you." Dong Xuebing shook hands with them, "You've had a tough journey. Get in the car. Let me take your luggage and put it in the trunk."

Xiao Qian took his luggage.

Xiao Lu, the girl, couldn't carry hers, and Dong Xuebing ended up helping.

"Thank you," Xiao Lu said, glancing at the luxurious Range Rover. "Comrade Dong, are you from the Provincial Academy?"

Dong Xuebing smiled, "No, I'm from the local government. Didn't Professor Zhong mention it to you?"

Xiao Lu chuckled, "Teacher didn't say much. She just asked us to contact you. She doesn't talk a lot, and didn't mention anything else. We thought you were from the Provincial Academy."

"How should we address you?" Xiao Qian asked.

"Just call me Xuebing. Come on, get in the car."

They entered the Range Rover, and Dong Xuebing drove towards the county.

As they were of similar age, they quickly found common topics, chatting and laughing, which brought them closer.

"By the way, where are we going for the inspection?" Dong Xuebing brought up the main topic. "For this site selection, are there any specific requirements? Should it be in a mountainous area?"

Xiao Qian said, "It doesn't necessarily have to be a mountainous area, but there should be no residents nearby, somewhat remote. However, the transportation should still be convenient. As for other details, we'll need to conduct on-site inspections when we arrive, measure some things, and then report back to the institute. Our teacher will make the decision on how to finalize it."

"I see."

"Are there any suitable places?"

"There are indeed many places. Let's start by visiting Qing Shui Township. It's located near the mountains and is quite remote. Although transportation is inconvenient, our county has recently started a road construction project, and the funds are already in place. If the experimental base can be established, the local government will strongly cooperate, and we will solve the problem of road transportation. So, you don't need to worry about that." After all, constructing the experimental base will take at least half a year. During that time, road construction can be carried out simultaneously, and it will likely be completed around the same time, if not sooner. So, it's not a problem.

Before ten o'clock, they arrived at Qing Shui Township.

Dong Xuebing did not contact the local township for cooperation and directly took Xiao Qian and Xiao Lu to conduct on-site inspections in an area under the mountains.

Taking photos.

Measuring temperature.

Measuring distance.

Xiao Qian and Xiao Lu were busy for a while.

Dong Xuebing blinked, "Do you think this place is suitable?"

Xiao Lu smiled slightly, "I think it's okay, no major issues. The surrounding terrain is a bit complex but still within an acceptable range."

Dong Xuebing said, "Your evening flight is not urgent. In the afternoon, I'll take you to other townships to have a look. It's already noon; let's have lunch."

Xiao Lu covered her stomach, "I am hungry."

Xiao Qian also wiped his sweat, put down the measuring instruments, and said, "Let's have lunch."

Dong Xuebing said, "Let's have lunch in the township. The conditions here are not good, so we might have to make do."

Xiao Qian smiled, "It's okay, anything is fine."

After packing the instruments, Dong Xuebing drove to a small restaurant in Qing Shui Township.

However, when he got out of the car, Dong Xuebing was recognized by several township officials who happened to pass by.

"Oh, Mayor Dong!"

"Why are you here?"

Several township officials looked anxious, probably assuming something was amiss. Someone even immediately took out their phone to inform the township leaders. They were likely afraid that Dong Xuebing was here for a surprise inspection. It wasn't surprising that everyone was on edge; after all, Dong Xuebing's reputation wasn't the best, and many people feared him.

Dong Xuebing laughed, "I'm just here to eat with friends. I heard that Qing Shui Township's barbecue is famous far and wide. Don't stop me from enjoying it."

"No, no."

"We don't mean anything else."

"Please. Today's meal is on me."

Behind him, Xiao Qian and Xiao Lu were a bit dumbfounded. Mayor?

So, the one who drove them today is a Mayor.

Xiao Qian and Xiao Lu were stunned, only now realizing Dong Xuebing's occupation.

Chapter 1496: Wants to reassign duties with the beautiful Mayor

"Sunday.

Early in the morning.

Huffing and puffing, Dong Xuebing was brushing his teeth in the bathroom when the phone, thrown beside the ashtray in the living room, buzzed and chirped. He spat out the minty toothpaste foam with a plop, quickly rinsed his mouth, and then walked out to answer the call.

"Hello, who's this?"

"Mayor Dong, it's Xiao Lu."

"Oh, you've arrived in Beijing?"

"We arrived early yesterday morning. We were up late and didn't call you as we didn't want to disturb your rest. Thank you for your hospitality yesterday. You picked and dropped us off, treating us to several meals. We both feel a bit embarrassed. Next time, it's our treat."

"Don't be polite. By the way, about the site selection."

"We've submitted the inspection report. It hasn't been finalized yet."

"Do you think it's almost certain?"

"I think there shouldn't be a big problem, but the decision is still in the air. I can't say for sure."

"Alright, hehe. I didn't get a chance to take you around yesterday. We'll do that another day when you have time. I'll accompany you for a stroll."

"Sure, we'll keep in touch."

"Okay, that's settled."

"Alright, we're going to rest."

After hanging up, Dong Xuebing snapped his fingers. With the assurance from the inspection team and Professor Chen, he felt confident everything would be fine. Now, he started thinking about how to secure the technology department's responsibilities. This matter was urgent, and he needed to handle it quickly, preferably before the news spread. If the news reached the people in Zhen Shui County after making the decision, Ci Boyang would never relinquish the responsibility. Nobody would willingly give away their political achievements. Dong Xuebing believed he had to settle this matter before next Monday, ensuring confidentiality.

How to do it?

Who should he approach?

It's not easy to handle.

Dong Xuebing pondered and decided to find Jiang Fangfang. He had already arranged to have dinner with Sister Jiang tonight. He would ask her then.

With a snap, the door upstairs closed.

Quick, steady footsteps gradually approached.

Listening carefully, it seemed to be Sister Jiang's door sound. Dong Xuebing walked over and peeked through the peephole. Sure enough, a pair of legs clad in sports pants and a pair of sports shoes came into view. Dong Xuebing wondered where Sister Jiang was headed dressed like this: White sports pants, sky blue sportswear. In the blink of an eye, carrying a garbage bag, Jiang Fangfang had already descended the stairs and moved into the distance. Dong Xuebing knew she wouldn't be dressed like this for work, so she was probably off today. He quickly put on his shoes, opened the door, and followed her.

Downstairs.

The morning air was fresh.

There had been some rain last night, and the ground was mostly dry. However, there were still some puddles with a hint of rainwater. The atmosphere was filled with the fragrance of flowers and birds chirping.

"Mayor Jiang."

"Good morning."

"Are you going to have breakfast?"

Several officials who were heading out greeted Jiang Fangfang with a smile.

"Good morning," Jiang Fangfang said casually, throwing away the garbage bag. "I haven't exercised for many days, and my body feels uncomfortable. I'm going for a morning run."

Dong Xuebing came out of the corridor, hearing their conversation. He immediately said, "Mayor Jiang, hehe, let's run together. I need some exercise, too."

Jiang Fangfang, with a faint smile, pointed to the door. "Let's go."

Dong Xuebing chuckled, "Then you need to go a bit slower. I definitely can't keep up with you."

"Sure."

Dong Xuebing joined Jiang Fangfang in a slow jog out of the residential compound. After exchanging greetings with a few acquaintances on the way, they headed to a nearby small garden. Running around a gazebo on the outskirts of the lawn, they breathed in the scent of grass seeds. Both felt refreshed.

"Sister Jiang."

"Yes."

"Taking a break today?"

"If there's nothing to do at the office, I'll take the day off."

"If you have work, let your secretary handle it. You haven't rested for so many days. Today, take a break and come to my place for breakfast later."

"Sure."

"What do you want to eat?"

"Congee, do you have millet?"

"Yes, and pickled vegetables, too."

While lightly jogging, they chatted.

The garden was not crowded, only a few elderly people taking a morning stroll.

When they reached the north side of the gazebo, behind a small hill with fewer people, Dong Xuebing suddenly looked to the side. Jiang Fangfang was already sweating, and her forehead and the back of her sportswear were damp. During the jog, her chest and rounded buttocks were bouncing a little, looking quite tempting. Dong Xuebing appreciated the view momentarily before saying, "Sister Jiang, let me tell you something."

Jiang Fangfang, panting, asked, "What's the matter?"

Dong Xuebing cleared his throat. "Give me the responsibility for the technology department."

Jiang Fangfang, while continuing to run, glanced at him. "What technology department?"

"The technology-related work. How about letting me handle it?" Dong Xuebing said.

"But isn't it under the jurisdiction of Deputy Mayor Ci?" Jiang Fangfang looked ahead without looking at him.

"Yes, I know. But Deputy Mayor Ci hasn't achieved much in this area. It's a waste. Look at our county's Science and Technology Bureau. It doesn't even have a proper office space. Whether it's there or not, it makes no difference to the county. This is such a pity. I'm not just boasting, but if you give me this responsibility, I can make progress in technology work in a short time. I'll elevate this area, and technology work and investment promotion are connected. Only by diversifying can we maximize our effectiveness." Dong Xuebing huffed and puffed, having spoken so much while jogging that he was out of breath. "Do you think what I said makes sense?"

Jiang Fangfang nodded, "It makes sense."

Dong Xuebing clapped his hands, "Alright, it's settled."

"No." Jiang Fangfang decisively refused.

Dong Xuebing wiped his sweat, "It makes sense, why not?"

Jiang Fangfang slowed to a walk, pointed to a gazebo ahead, and walked towards it with Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing cleared the fallen leaves from a stone bench, saying, "Please have a seat."

Jiang Fangfang sat down, "What do you want to do with the responsibility for the technology department?"

Dong Xuebing cheered, "I haven't figured out any specific plans yet. I just want to get involved in technology work."

"Whether it's agriculture or animal husbandry, they mainly rely on traditional breeding methods, and it's impossible to change quickly. There are also various constraints. How do you plan to handle it?" Jiang Fangfang asked.

"The productivity of technology is not limited to farming and breeding. It covers various aspects. If we focus only on cultivation and breeding, we will limit ourselves. My idea is to think outside the box. As long as you make a job adjustment for me and let me take charge of the technology department, I guarantee that I will achieve results for the county in the shortest possible time," Dong Xuebing declared.

Jiang Fangfang gently shook her head.

Dong Xuebing pouted, "You are being uninteresting, Sister Jiang."

"It's not that I'm uninterested. Without a change in position, without special circumstances, the county government generally won't adjust the responsibilities of a deputy Mayor," Jiang Fangfang explained.

"But this is a special situation now. Without bragging, I have done well in investment promotion. You can consider it a reward for my achievements," Dong Xuebing argued.

"Ci Mayor is a member of the Meng faction. Our relationship with the Meng faction has just eased. It's a rare situation where we work together for development. It's a valuable time and opportunity. If you suddenly take over Ci Bongyang's responsibilities, what kind of impact will it have? We are cooperative, and it's hard to come by. If things get messed up because of a political struggle, the progress of road construction, and the implementation of investment projects, everything will be affected. Many things will become uncertain," Jiang Fangfang analyzed.

Dong Xuebing couldn't argue with that. After a moment of contemplation, he listened to her and suddenly said, "I also manage the Development and Reform Bureau."

Jiang Fangfang looked at him, "Why?"

"The Development and Reform Bureau's work at the grassroots level may not have a significant impact at the top, but it's better than the Technology Bureau. It's not even comparable. My point is that if you give me the responsibility for technology, you give Ci Bongyang the Development and Reform Bureau, and everyone is happy. Ci Bongyang should have no objections," Dong Xuebing proposed. As the Deputy Mayor, he had multiple departments under his charge. The County Government Office, Finance, and Investment Promotion were just a few of the important ones. There were many more, such as the Development and Reform Bureau and the County Compilation Office, totaling about ten departments of various sizes.

Jiang Fangfang remained silent. "Do you think this is a game of exchanging roles?"

"It's not an exchange. It's just a work adjustment. Anyway, you have the final say in the county government. Let's go with this plan, Sister Jiang."

"What are you trying to do?"

"I'm not trying to do anything. I just want to do a good job," Dong Xuebing said.

"But sending the Development and Reform Bureau to Ci Bongyang is like trading roles," Jiang Fangfang observed.

Dong Xuebing shrugged, "It's not trading. It's just a work adjustment. Come on, let's settle for this, Sister Jiang."

"I'll think about it," Jiang Fangfang said.

Chapter 1497: Success

Morning.

Small garden.

After much hesitation, Jiang Fangfang said she would consider it again without agreeing with Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing felt helpless. Seeing Jiang Fangfang get up and run back, he followed her back to the family courtyard.

Upstairs.

Dong Xuebing's home.

After entering the house, Dong Xuebing didn't have so many concerns and didn't have to worry about others overhearing the conversation. After closing the door and changing into slippers, he chattered with Jiang Fangfang again, "Sister Jiang, I'm telling you the truth. I can't tell you the specific situation right now. The reason is that it's not settled yet, a bit uncertain. But you have to give me the Science and Technology Department first. Otherwise, I can't handle the work in this area at all. Tomorrow is Monday, and when you have a meeting, talk to Ci Boyang in advance. I'll give up the Development and Reform Bureau, and he will agree."

Jiang Fangfang went to the bathroom casually, found a towel, wiped the sweat from her forehead and neck, and completely ignored Dong Xuebing's words, "Where is the millet?"

"In the kitchen."

"In the fridge?"

"No, in the cabinet."

"Okay, I'll cook porridge."

"Wait, listen to me."

"I've said I'll consider it again, change the topic."

"Don't think about it, let's settle it."

Dong Xuebing relentlessly followed her to the kitchen and helped her wash and cook porridge. After it was cooked, the two sat in the living room for breakfast. Jiang Fangfang refused to eat, not giving him a definite answer. Dong Xuebing had no choice. He had his considerations, and Jiang Fangfang must have her considerations. It seemed that it wouldn't be easy to change her mind. Dong Xuebing felt that just talking wouldn't work; he needed to change his strategy.

After breakfast.

Dong Xuebing washed the dishes, and Sister Jiang watched the news on the sofa.

When Dong Xuebing came out of the kitchen, he looked at Sister Jiang's sportswear, which still had some sweat. He approached, reached out, and hugged her waist.

Jiang Fangfang glanced at him, took his hand off her waist, and said, "I'm going back."

"Don't. Sit for a while; I've brewed tea for you." Dong Xuebing said.

Jiang Fangfang slowly said, "The clothes are still wet. I'll go back and take a shower."

Dong Xuebing immediately said, "Wash here. I also have clothes here. Pick whichever you like. Anyway, sportswear doesn't distinguish between men and women."

Jiang Fangfang said, "No need."

"Use it, use it." Dong Xuebing didn't intend to let her go. He reached over again, but he didn't hug her this time. Instead, he pinched her sportswear from below and lifted it, saying, "Take it off. It's uncomfortable when it's sticky." His movements were quick, and Sister Jiang's bra was exposed.

Jiang Fangfang pushed a few times.

Dong Xuebing didn't listen and forcibly took off her outer clothes.

When the neckline of the sportswear poured out Sister Jiang's hair, Dong Xuebing threw her clothes aside and raised his hand to take off her pants.

"Don't need to take off the pants."

"Just take them off; you're sweaty."

"Are you plotting against me again?"

"Cough, how is that possible? Nothing's going on."

"Then why are you forcing me to undress? The first time was because you couldn't sleep, and the second time was because you were nervous. There's no reason today, right?" Jiang Fangfang said.

"It's just that I'm afraid you'll feel uncomfortable with wet clothes."

"I'll feel even more uncomfortable with my clothes off."

Jiang Fangfang pressed his hand. She wouldn't let Dong Xuebing take off her pants, no matter what.

Dong Xuebing took a final look, gritted his teeth, and stopped struggling with her pants. Instead, he stood up, lowered his head, and bent over to lift Jiang Fangfang. Having been with Sister Jiang twice before, Dong Xuebing was now bolder when facing her. Carrying her body, he walked into the bedroom and kicked the door shut with his foot. He placed Jiang Fangfang on the bed and, raising his head, noticed that the sky outside was already bright. Dong Xuebing hung the curtains.

Jiang Fangfang ran her fingers through her hair and sat on the bed.

Dong Xuebing walked to the bedside. He pressed her down again, leaned over to kiss her face and ears, and his hands roamed through her hair. Despite sweating, Sister Jiang exuded a pleasant fragrance, and the slightly damp bangs added a touch of charm.

Jiang Fangfang was not very cooperative.

However, Dong Xuebing still pulled her into the quilt. He also took off his shoes and clothes, then dived into the bed, entwining himself with her.

After a while, a flesh-colored bra flew out of the quilt.

Next was a pair of women's workout pants, pulled out of the quilt and thrown onto a chair by Dong Xuebing.

Finally, Jiang Fangfang's flesh-colored panties and socks also flew out one by one, some landing on the table and some on the floor.

"Sister Jiang."

"Yes?"

"Is it okay?"

"What's okay?"

"I mean, am I bothering you?"

"Whatever."

With Jiang Fangfang's consent, Dong Xuebing played with her body under the quilt, making her turn over, facing away from him, and then began to have his way with her.

Ten minutes.

Half an hour.

One hour.

Around nine o'clock.

The quilt on the bed stopped moving. Dong Xuebing, with a sweaty head, rested on the pillow as he panted. Jiang Fangfang's head also emerged from the quilt; she was sweating more than Dong Xuebing, with droplets on her neck. She was fragrant and sweaty.

Dong Xuebing hugged her back.

Jiang Fangfang smoothed her damp hair and breathed, "I'm going to shower."

"Hoo, together?" Dong Xuebing asked.

"Whatever." Jiang Fangfang lifted the quilt, got out of bed, and headed to the bathroom.

Dong Xuebing took a break and followed her into the bathroom. Seeing that Jiang Fangfang had left the door unlocked for him, he smiled slightly. After entering, he closed the door behind him and showered with Sister Jiang.

Splashing water.

As the hot water poured, washing away all the sweat.

Dong Xuebing squinted comfortably. After washing his hair, he saw Jiang Fangfang applying shower gel to her body. He couldn't help but approach her, hugging her from behind. "Sister Jiang, how about I mentioned the adjustment of responsibilities in the Science and Technology Department? Is it feasible?"

Without turning around, Jiang Fangfang rubbed the shower gel onto her body, saying, "What matter?"

"Oh, it's the reassignment of the Science and Technology Department responsibilities. Can you make a decision?" Dong Xuebing didn't wait for her to refuse; he tightened his grip. "Please, Fangfang."

"What did you call me?"

"Fangfang."

"Okay."

"Give me the Science and Technology Department."

"I'll think about it and talk about it tomorrow."

"Why are you still thinking? It's been a long time. Anyway, I won't let you go if you don't give me a straightforward answer today. Let's see who can endure longer." Dong Xuebing played the emotional card, acting a bit stubborn. He continued to coax Sister Jiang and kissed her hair.

Perhaps unable to withstand it any longer, Jiang Fangfang said faintly, "Okay, okay. Finish washing and go out. Tomorrow, I will communicate with Mayor Ci."

Finally getting the desired answer, Dong Xuebing was pleased. "Sister Fangfang is the best. Thank you."

Chapter 1498: Too hard to understand

Monday.

Morning.

County Party Committee compound.

After coming to work, Dong Xuebing went to his office in the county compound. He pulled open the curtains and opened the window to let the sunlight in. Immediately, he opened a drawer, found a box of good tea leaves, used his newly bought electric kettle to boil water, and casually prepared the tea set to start brewing and enjoying the tea. The flavor of Longjing tea was rich, and as hot water poured onto the tea leaves, a faint tea fragrance splashed out, filling the room.

Dong Xuebing thoroughly enjoyed one cup, then two, then three. Good things had been happening recently, and his mood was relaxed. Looking at the familiar office and gazing at the familiar scenery outside the window, Dong Xuebing knew that he might not stay in Zhen Shui County for much longer. Surprisingly, he was starting to feel a bit reluctant to leave.

Knock, knock, the sound of a knock on the door.

Dong Xuebing withdrew his gaze. "Come in."

Yao Cui pushed the door open. "Xuebing."

"Cui'er." Dong Xuebing waved. "Quick, just brewed some tea, perfect timing."

Yao Cui smiled, walked over with some documents, sat down, and took the tea cup Dong Xuebing handed to her. She sniffed it and lowered her head to take a sip. "Good tea, so fragrant."

Dong Xuebing said, "It's not as good as before. It's been a couple of months."

Yao Cui took another sip. "It's still good. Well, you know how to enjoy life."

Dong Xuebing laughed. "Haha, I'm just making a show. I don't understand. These were given to me as gifts; not drinking them would be a waste. By the way, take some more later."

"Oh, come on. Whenever you ask me to take some, I take several pounds of tea. Only my dad and I drink tea in my family, and we can't finish so much." Yao Cui poured herself a cup without being too polite.

Dong Xuebing said, "If you can't finish it, give it away. Anyway, I can't take it with me."

Yao Cui was puzzled. "Take it with you? Take it where?"

Dong Xuebing realized he had let something slip. The situation was not settled yet, and he hadn't planned to tell anyone. "Uh, nothing. By the way, do you have something to discuss?"

Yao Cui put down the teacup. "Almost forgot. Mayor Jiang notified us at the last minute. There's a meeting at ten."

Dong Xuebing nodded, poured out the tasteless tea leaves, added some fresh ones, and topped it up with water, shaking it lightly.

Yao Cui looked at him. "Hehe, something on your mind?"

Dong Xuebing smiled. "Just thinking about some things. You've been with me for over four months now, right?"

Yao Cui nodded. "You've been in office for a little over four months, and I've been with you for about the same time. What's up?"

Dong Xuebing pondered for a moment. "What are your plans for the future?"

Yao Cui laughed. "What plans can I have? Just let me continue being a good secretary for my old classmate."

"I'm serious." Dong Xuebing said. "You can't be a secretary forever. You'll move up. What are your thoughts?"

Yao Cui waved her hand. "My abilities are limited, and I haven't thought much about it. Thanks to your help, I got this deputy section chief position. Otherwise, I would have been a clerk for my whole life. What skills do I have? I don't even know."

"Humble, isn't it?"

"I call it self-awareness, hehe."

Seeing her not saying anything, Dong Xuebing thought momentarily. He suddenly said, "In Qing Shui Township, a deputy township Chief is not in good health and has applied for medical retirement. The application has just been submitted, and the county will approve it. After completing the procedures, it should be done within this month or the next at the latest. The current township chief in Qing Shui Township is also due to retire by the end of the year, so he will step down. Therefore, I'm thinking of transferring you to Qing Shui Township. Start as the deputy township Chief. Once you're familiar with the work and achieve some results, I want you to take over when the township Chief steps down. Cui'er, what do you think?"

Yao Cui was stunned, "Didn't I just suggest this?"

Dong Xuebing smiled, "Deputy township Chief, just a lateral transfer."

Yao Cui said, "I have no problem. It's a good opportunity. But what about your secretary position here?"

"It's fine on my end. As long as you agree, I'll inform Mayor Jiang when the time comes."

"Why are you in such a hurry? It's good for you to have me as your secretary. I'm just getting familiar with the work, and I'm afraid I won't be competent if I go to the township now," Yao Cui expressed her concerns.

Dong Xuebing shook his head, "You always say you're incapable, but I don't think that's the case. It's more about whether you have confidence or not. The deputy township Chief position is rare due to the current deputy's medical retirement and the upcoming retirement of the township Chief. So, I want to arrange it for you as soon as possible. Okay, let's settle it like this for now."

After a few more cups of tea and some casual chat, Yao Cui finally left.

Dong Xuebing's haste in arranging things for her had his considerations. It might be too late if he issued the transfer order later and then arranged for Yao Cui. He needed to use his current influence to pave the way for his old classmate, ensuring everything was in place for Yao Cui. As for Yao Cui's side, it was likely not a big issue, given her connection with his friend Chang Juan and her prior appointment as deputy director.

At ten o'clock.

County Government.

Small meeting room.

When Dong Xuebing entered, Deputy Mayor Ci Boyang and Lu Zhi were present. After exchanging greetings, Dong Xuebing took his seat.

"Mayor Lu, what's the matter today?"

"Mayor Li, I'm not quite sure."

"Is there an urgent matter that we haven't heard of?"

Several deputy Mayors looked puzzled, as if none had received any information about the meeting and didn't know what was being discussed. Only Dong Xuebing sat calmly, indicating that he knew some details. When Mayor Jiang entered, Ci Boyang frowned and looked at him, about to ask a question.

"Mayor Jiang."

"Mayor Jiang."

"Since everyone's here, let's begin the meeting."

Jiang Fangfang sat in the main seat, placing documents and a tea cup on the table.

Secretary Li Xiaona was the last to enter, closed the door, took up her pen, and sat at the back, ready to record the meeting.

Everyone looked at Jiang Fangfang, waiting for her to speak.

Jiang Fangfang took a sip of water at a leisurely pace, glanced at everyone, and said, "The main purpose of today's meeting is to make certain adjustments to the work assignments of some comrades."

As soon as the words fell, several deputy Mayors were slightly stunned. There had been no recent job transfers or major failures or mistakes in their work assignments. What did it mean to adjust work assignments, and they hadn't heard any information about which work assignments would change? This matter involved everyone's interests and work, so naturally, everyone's nerves were tense. They exchanged glances, and in the end, it seemed like an unspoken agreement as most of their gazes focused on Ci Boyang and Dong Xuebing. If there were any disharmonies within the county government, it was undoubtedly Ci Boyang, the only deputy Mayor firmly aligned with Secretary Meng. Therefore, everyone speculated that this adjustment was probably unrelated to themselves, mainly targeting Ci Boyang. However, there was also some confusion. The relationship between the Jiang faction and the Meng faction had just eased, entering a honeymoon period. If Mayor Ci Boyang's interests were harmed, affecting his foundation, it would be equivalent to the Jiang faction declaring war on the Meng faction again, especially when Jiang was in control of the

overall situation. What was Mayor Jiang planning at a time like this? If not handled properly, the stable situation could be thrown into chaos.

Even Li Xiaona looked at Mayor Jiang in surprise. As the secretary, she hadn't received any information beforehand and was completely unaware.

The meeting room became somewhat noisy.

Many people whispered and discussed for a few moments.

Ci Boyang's complexion didn't look too good.

Jiang Fangfang still maintained her indifferent expression. When the meeting room gradually quieted, she calmly said, "As everyone knows, recently, Mayor Dong has achieved remarkable results in the investment promotion department he oversees, attracting nearly two billion in funding. This also means an increase in workload." Seeing the puzzled looks of everyone, Jiang Fangfang continued, "At the same time, Mayor Dong is also the overall commander of the dormitory project. This workload has seriously affected Mayor Dong's physical condition. As many of you may know, Mayor Dong has hardly taken a break for over a month and is very tired. There was even one time when he almost fainted."

What does she mean?

Why is she shifting the focus onto Mayor Dong?

Jiang Fangfang continued calmly, "Yesterday, I communicated with Mayor Dong, and he took the initiative to propose reducing the burden on himself. I agreed. Therefore, starting today, Comrade Dong Xuebing will hand over the work of the Development and Reform Bureau, which he was in charge of, to Comrade Ci Boyang. The science and technology work previously assigned to Comrade Ci Boyang will now be overseen by Comrade Dong Xuebing."

Oh.

Mayor Dong is offloading responsibilities.

Mayor Ci's authority is increasing.

Everyone was stunned. Wasn't this the opposite?

Ci Boyang also didn't expect such a reassignment of duties. He couldn't understand what kind of play Jiang Fangfang was making. Was she trying to create a conflict with Dong Xuebing? This doesn't make sense. There were no reports of them arguing or having any disputes. Could it be that Dong Xuebing genuinely felt the burden was too heavy? Although according to Mayor Jiang's proposal, Ci Boyang was also handing over the science and technology department to Dong Xuebing, could the science and technology department be compared to the development and reform department? It's like comparing finance with archives – the weight of responsibilities is significantly different. Ci Boyang would gain a significant advantage if it were divided this way.

Lu Zhi wanted to say something in defense of Dong Xuebing, but seeing Dong Xuebing's indifferent expression, he refrained from speaking.

A silence fell over the room.

Jiang Fangfang said, "There's nothing else, let's adjourn."

Ci Boyang looked at Dong Xuebing with suspicion and uncertainty.

The others also cast puzzled glances at Dong Xuebing.

What was going on? Working too hard, body not okay – who would believe such an excuse? Everyone knew that Dong Xuebing could lift thousands of kilograms of stone walls, handle a situation with a broken body, and single-handedly take on more than twenty villagers. He lifted a foreigner weighing over three hundred kilograms onto his shoulders with just one hand. If your body can't handle it, who in the world has a body that can?

It's inexplicable.

When did Mayor Dong become so noble?

He voluntarily handed over responsibilities to his political rival.

As the meeting dispersed, the news spread. Without exception, Dong Xuebing's move left everyone puzzled.

Chapter 1499: Central Science Academy's Project is settled

Morning.

Ring, ring.

Ring, ring.

The phone hasn't stopped.

Dong Xuebing answered greetings from many friends and colleagues. Even the Discipline Inspection Secretary, Pu An, personally came to his office to ask what was happening. People had various speculations about Dong Xuebing's actions this time. Some thought there was a conflict with Mayor Jiang, some believed it was a compromise between the Jiang faction and the Meng faction, and others suspected hidden interests they were unaware of. Some even thought Dong Xuebing couldn't control the Development and Reform Bureau situation, so he decided to hand it over to others instead of waiting for problems to arise. However, nobody was naive enough to believe Dong Xuebing's claim about health issues. When Pu An asked, Dong Xuebing stuck to his story of being tired, weak, and anemic, portraying himself as seriously ill. Pu An was skeptical but didn't press further.

The county leadership roles had been adjusted at the mayor's meeting, but it hadn't reached the Standing Committee yet. A vote might reject this adjustment, so Dong Xuebing was cautious. He pretended to be unwell and took a day off, going to the hospital in the morning for a check-up.

CT scan.

X-rays.

Blood tests.

Everything that could be checked was examined thoroughly. Dong Xuebing almost wished to stay in the hospital for a few days.

At noon, Ci Boyang answered a call from the County Party Secretary, Meng Rui, and didn't go downstairs to eat. Instead, he went directly to Meng Rui's office, knocked on the door, and entered. "Secretary Meng."

Meng Rui pressed his hand, "Sit down and talk."

Ci Boyang sat in front of his desk. "Have you heard?"

Meng Rui nodded, looking at him, "What's going on?"

Ci Boyang smiled bitterly, "I don't know either. Mayor Jiang suddenly convened an office meeting, announced the adjustment of duties, and then adjourned."

Meng Rui frowned, "Wasn't the work progressing well in the Development and Reform Bureau?"

"Exactly. There hasn't been any problem. I even made a phone call just now to inquire. I heard nothing. I don't understand why Dong Xuebing would hand over the responsibilities of such an important department and whether it was his initiative."

Meng Rui said, "I heard Mayor Dong went to the hospital."

"Yeah, he asked for leave. But his health should not be a big problem." Ci Boyang was puzzled, "Even if he had some health issues, how could he give away the Development and Reform Bureau, such an important department? Even if he doesn't have time to handle the work there, the bureau has a leader and deputy leaders to manage it. I don't understand. When Mayor Jiang mentioned the adjustment of duties, I thought it was aimed at me. Who would have thought they would distribute and take away Dong Xuebing's authority and give it to me."

Meng Rui remained silent for a while, "Go and have your lunch first."

"Okay." Ci Boyang then left.

Meng Rui sat alone in his office, contemplating more than Ci Boyang had anticipated. With Dong Xuebing's move, Meng Rui first considered whether Jiang's faction wanted to remove Ci Boyang. If Ci Boyang had deep connections with the Science and Technology Bureau, Dong Xuebing, by taking over and investigating the bureau's accounts, could potentially undermine Ci Boyang. However, Meng Rui quickly dismissed this possibility because the Science and Technology Bureau had no significant resources or funds. Even if Ci Boyang was not clever, there was nothing to gain. Moreover, Ci Boyang's attitude suggested he had nothing to hide. Excluding this possibility, could it be that Jiang Fangfang or Dong Xuebing's side wanted to negotiate something with him? This seemed to be the most plausible explanation. Two days ago, he received a disability retirement application from a deputy township head in Qing Shui Township. Could Jiang's faction have targeted him? However, Meng Rui was puzzled because he had not received any communication from Jiang Fangfang beforehand. How could they hand over the Development and Reform Bureau without any notice? The Development and Reform Bureau was less dispensable than the Science and Technology Bureau. Meng Rui remained vigilant.

But, no matter how puzzled he was, Meng Rui could not find a reason to reject the work distribution during the upcoming Party Committee meeting in two days. There was no reason to refuse the offered benefits. If he rejected the adjustment decided by the county government, not only might Ci Boyang have thoughts, but it would also be equivalent to slapping Jiang's faction in the face. At this moment, when both Meng's and Jiang's factions were enjoying a honeymoon period, Meng Rui didn't want to create conflicts. Both sides knew that Zhen Shui County had entered a period of rapid economic development, and intense internal conflicts were detrimental to everyone.

After careful consideration, Meng Rui made a decision.

Two days later.

At the County Party Standing Committee meeting, the adjustment of duties for Comrades Dong Xuebing and Ci Boyang was approved. Regarding selecting the deputy township Chief of Qing Shui Township, Dong Xuebing, showing fairness, proposed Comrade Yao Cui, who was successfully approved. Other appointments and work adjustments were also passed. The meeting proceeded harmoniously, and both Meng's and Jiang's factions benefited.

Five days later.

When almost everyone had forgotten about Dong Xuebing's inexplicable decision to voluntarily resign, a sudden call from the Chinese Academy of Sciences informed the county. Following that, a call from the deputy provincial governor in charge of science and technology confirmed the location of the Chinese Academy of Sciences' latest 503 experimental base in Qing Shui Township, Zhen Shui County. The project would officially commence next month on the 1st, and they requested full cooperation from Zhen Shui County. As for the site selection, communication with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and coordination with the local government all fell under the responsibilities of Dong Xuebing, who was in charge of science and technology.

When this news reached the county, everyone was shocked.

No one had expected such a huge opportunity to fall into Zhen Shui County's lap.

They hadn't even lobbied for it. How could such a significant project land in their county? Such good fortune was beyond anyone's expectations.

Chapter 1500: Dong Xuebingg's Influence

Morning.

Around ten o'clock.

At a construction site in the county town.

Amidst the dusty and smoky air resonated the sharp sounds of machines. Workers wearing safety helmets and surrounded by construction signs were diligently working. This was the site for the dormitory project, and as the overall project commander, Dong Xuebing was inspecting the situation. He came alone today, as Yao Cui had already taken up her position in Qing Shui Township, and he hadn't assigned a new secretary. Therefore, he decided to conduct a surprise inspection on his own.

" Mayor Dong."

"Old Zhou is here too."

"Oh, why are you here?"

"Checking the progress, how is it going?"

"Everything is proceeding smoothly; I'm supervising right now."

"Okay, let's go inside and take a look."

"Sure, put on your safety helmet first; it's dangerous here."

Old Zhou led Dong Xuebing inside, briefly describing the construction process and scope and summarizing the recent developments.

After an hour's tour, Dong Xuebing was satisfied. The progress was good. The projects here were on the right track. All the signed contracts for investment projects were finalized yesterday. The first batch of funds was fully in place, and some projects had even entered the implementation phase and started recruiting. In other words, Dong Xuebing's hands were now secure in the two major areas under his jurisdiction. The political achievements he aimed for were already within reach. Now, he was only waiting for the Chinese Academy of Sciences experimental base project and anxiously awaiting the results. As soon as this project arrived, he could retire with his achievements.

Make a fortune and leave.

While this statement might sound unattractive, Dong Xuebing didn't see any problem. Unlike other officials involved in vanity projects, Dong Xuebing was not the type to accumulate political capital and wash his hands of everything, leaving behind a mess of unfinished projects. He cared about his reputation and didn't want people pointing fingers at him. Dong Xuebing was conscious of his political achievements in Zhen Shui County, all of which were tangible. Whether it was the investment funds or the dormitory project's beneficiaries, they ultimately benefited the ordinary people. His focus was on the practical benefits for the citizens, not just making the government look good on the surface. Moreover, he always believed that being ambitious and striving for advancement was not a problem. On the contrary, if an official had no desire to progress and only wanted to remain stagnant, Dong Xuebing felt they needed to reflect on their motivations. People were ambitious; this drive pushed them forward and made them strive for improvement. If an official lacked the ambition to advance, Dong Xuebing had reason to believe that their dedication to serving the people would also be compromised. This was not a desirable outcome.

People often said that Dong Xuebing was an official enthusiast.

His wife said it, and so did his mother-in-law.

But Dong Xuebing never avoided the topic; he felt there was nothing to be ashamed of. In his view, pursuing advancement was the source of human striving.

Noon.

Almost time for lunch.

Dong Xuebing emerged from the bustling construction site, covered in dirt as if he had just crawled out of a pile of soil. He was extremely dirty.

Ring, ring, ring.

His phone rang urgently.

Dong Xuebing quickly answered when he saw it was Li Xiaona's number, "Hello, Secretary Li."

Li Xiaona's voice was urgent, "Mayor Dong, where are you? I've been calling for half an hour."

"Oh, I'm inspecting the construction site. It was too noisy inside earlier, and I didn't hear. What's the matter, Secretary Li? Is there an emergency?" Dong Xuebing asked.

Li Xiaona said hurriedly, "It's an emergency Party committee meeting. Everyone is waiting for you."

"Oh, something happened?" Dong Xuebing hadn't received any news yet.

Li Xiaona said, "It's about the Chinese Academy of Sciences' experimental base. I don't know why it suddenly fell to our county. They just notified us. Please come back quickly, Mayor Dong."

Dong Xuebing was delighted when he heard it, "Sure, I'll be there immediately."

Li Xiaona said, "Secretary Meng and Mayor Jiang are already in the meeting room. Please hurry."

Dong Xuebing was already walking towards his car, "Okay, I'll be there in no more than ten minutes. I'm very close." He got in the car and stepped on the gas to rush out.

Ten minutes later.

County Party Committee Small Meeting Room.

Seeing the tightly closed door, Dong Xuebing pushed it open, entering the meeting room disheveled with dust flying as the door swung open. Everyone looked at him, and Pu An burst into laughter while Jiang Fangfang smiled slightly. Dong Xuebing, in his current state of disarray, was the perfect description of someone with a dusty and muddy face, making people couldn't help but chuckle. The originally solemn atmosphere of the meeting room immediately lightened.

Meng Rui was on the phone, probably talking to a leader.

Jiang Fangfang looked at Dong Xuebing, "Where did you go?"

Dong Xuebing found his seat and sat down, "Oh, I went to the construction site of the dormitory project. They are laying the foundation there, and the whole place is covered in dirt."

Picking up a cup, Dong Xuebing gulped down some water.

Only Ci Boyang had no relaxed expression; instead, he seemed a bit serious.

At this moment, Meng Rui also hung up the phone and looked at Dong Xuebing, "Mayor Dong, you're here. Let's start the meeting. Just now, Secretary Chen of the City Party Committee also confirmed the matter of the experimental base over the phone. The Chinese Academy of Sciences' planned 503 experimental base is confirmed to be located in our Zhen Shui County. We need to fully cooperate."

Dong Xuebing pretended, "Secretary Meng, when did this happen?"

"An hour ago." Meng Rui glanced at him. "This matter is somewhat sudden. We didn't receive any information beforehand. I later inquired a bit. It seems like the internal meeting of the Chinese Academy of Sciences decided on the location for the experimental base. Mayor Dong, do you know the specific reasons?"

Dong Xuebing feigned ignorance, "I don't know."

Zhang Wanshui also looked at him, "You didn't hear anything in advance?"

Dong Xuebing said, "No, everyone is not clear. How could I have received the news in advance? I was at the construction site just now. I wouldn't have known about this if Secretary Li hadn't called to inform me. He pretended to be puzzled, "Why did they choose our county so suddenly?"

Jiang Fangfang calmly said, "Whether it's sudden or not is no longer important. The site selection issue has been confirmed. Just now, everyone has already discussed the relevant matters of the

experimental base. We will cooperate well, whether for the country's responsibility or the county's scientific and technological development. The completion of this experimental base is of great significance. Earlier, Secretary Meng and I discussed with comrades from the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Apart from some confidential matters that need to be supervised by comrades from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the rest of the construction and a series of communication and exchange issues in the future will be our county's responsibility. It's not a light burden, not a light responsibility. I hope everyone will take it seriously."

Jian Xiangrong asked, "I heard the person is arriving soon."

Meng Rui continued, "Comrades from the Chinese Academy of Sciences are already on the plane and will arrive this afternoon. As for the reception work, the Provincial Academy of Sciences will be responsible."

Cui Boyang added, "It's in Qing Shui Township."

Jiang Fangfang said, "At the foot of the Qing Shui Township mountains."

Cui Boyang was somewhat dissatisfied, "Since the specific location is so certain, there must have been a prior investigation."

"It should have been a secret investigation. Otherwise, why would there be no news at all?" Pu An speculated, "Experimental projects are confidential, and site selection work must also be kept confidential."

Interrupting the discussion, Meng Rui said, "Enough about that. Let's talk about the work. Mayor Dong, this task is quite significant now that technology falls under your purview. I heard that you had some health issues a few days ago and proactively handed over some responsibilities, even taking leave to go to the hospital."

When Dong Xuebing heard this, he immediately responded, "Those days were busy with the investment promotion conference, and the aftermath left me exhausted. After several days of treatment and rest, I've completely recovered with no lingering issues. You can rest assured. Regarding the matters related to the experimental base this time, I will do my best to ensure they are handled well."

One moment, he's unburdening himself due to illness; the next moment, he's taking on additional responsibilities. Dong Xuebing's changes were faster than anyone else's.

Jiang Fangfang looked at him and said, "You've been working hard these past few days."

Dong Xuebing smiled, "It's my duty. We are public servants of the people."

Pu An, Chu Peng, Jian Xiangrong, and others from Jiang's faction chuckled.

Meng Rui's expression remained calm, but his mood was happy and excited overall. He saw a bright future for Zhen Shui County and recognized the political capital he had accumulated. He would benefit from the investment promotion work, and the implementation of the experimental base would be the same. Although the area was under the county government's jurisdiction, as the head of the county party committee, Meng Rui would also bask in the glory. This would undoubtedly become a political achievement during his term. Meng Rui didn't believe Dong Xuebing's claim of being unaware. He knew that Dong Xuebing had cleverly set a trap for Ci Boyang this time, but this didn't fundamentally affect Meng Rui's interests. Therefore, Secretary

Meng turned a blind eye to it and even admired Dong Xuebing. If Dong Xuebing had managed to secure the experimental base project in advance by communicating with the Chinese Academy of Sciences during his trip to Beijing, then, if given another chance, Meng Rui would still have agreed to the adjustment of responsibilities between Dong Xuebing and Ci Boyang. If the science and technology portfolio had not been given to Dong Xuebing, he wouldn't have made any effort, and they wouldn't have secured the experimental base project.

"The workload this time is heavy, and the nature of the task is significant," Meng Rui said. "I suggest forming a special team responsible for communicating with the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Mayor Dong, the role of the team leader is yours." Since Dong Xuebing was responsible for the science and technology portfolio, it was only natural for him to take on the team leader role.

Dong Xuebing promptly replied, "I will ensure the successful completion of this task."

"This afternoon, arrange the reception for the comrades from the Chinese Academy of Sciences as soon as possible. Alright, the meeting is adjourned," Meng Rui said.

As the meeting ended, many people couldn't help but glance at Dong Xuebing. Many were amazed at Dong Xuebing's energy. If the previous incident involving the central government's allocation of fifty million hadn't made everyone see him in a different light, the recent turn of events added to the mystery surrounding Dong Xuebing's background, and many were secretly intrigued.