

PAW 1531

Chapter 1531: It's a Boy

Afternoon.

It was past two o'clock.

Dong Xuebing could only be described as impatient in the corridor outside the operating room. He paced back and forth in the hallway with his hands behind his back, sometimes patting his forehead, sometimes pounding his head. He didn't know what to do, feeling anxious and uneasy. He looked at the light on in the operating room, almost wishing to kick the door open and see what was happening inside. Dong Xuebing was like an ant on a hot pan, restless and anxious, not knowing his wife's state.

"Xuebing, sit down for a moment," Xie Guojian said.

Dong Xuebing clenched his fists. "Uncle, how can I sit still?"

Xie Hao also said, "Brother-in-law, stop pacing, I'm getting dizzy."

Dong Xuebing glared at him. "I don't care if you feel dizzy. At least you're sitting still."

Xie Hao laughed, "Hehe, that's a good thing; of course, I'm calm and even happy."

"Yes, Xuebing, it's a good thing. Why are you so anxious? Get ready to be a father," Xie Guojian said.

"I'm just afraid that Huilan will have any problems. Look at how pale she is, how much pain she's in. What if she can't give birth? What should we do?" Dong Xuebing said.

"It won't happen, don't be so pessimistic," Xie Guojian said.

"Oh, why hasn't she come out yet? Why hasn't she come out yet?" Dong Xuebing muttered, his steps getting faster and faster, circling in place.

Ten minutes passed.

Twenty minutes passed.

The operating room door remained closed, but familiar voices came from the corridor.

"Brother-in-law, we're here," it was Xie Ran and Xie Jing, two younger relatives. "Where's my sister?"

Dong Xuebing pointed to the operating room. "She's inside. It's been half a day since she was taken in, but there's no news; it's worrying. I suggested going in, but they wouldn't let me."

Xie Ran reassured him, "Brother-in-law, my sister, and the baby must be fine."

"Let's hope so," Dong Xuebing leaned against the operating room door and listened, but the soundproofing was excellent, and he couldn't hear anything.

Xie Jing found it funny to see his brother-in-law, who had faced several warships alone without changing his expression, now in such a hurry. She knew Dong Xuebing genuinely worried about their elder sister and the baby.

Suddenly, footsteps sounded again.

"Guojian."

"Xiao Bing."

Xie Guobang and Han Jing arrived one after another.

Dong Xuebing immediately stepped forward. "Dad, Mom."

"They're all here," Han Jing said urgently. "Where's Huilan?"

Dong Xuebing immediately grabbed his mother-in-law's arm. "She's in the operating room, Mom. Please hurry up and tell them. Let me go in and take a look. I'm so worried."

Han Jing said decisively, "You're not allowed to go in. You'll cause trouble."

Dong Xuebing slapped his thigh. "But it's not a good thing to wait like this. Oh, I'm so anxious."

Han Jing was also anxious, "Huilan spoke to me before, and I also informed the hospital. Huilan's idea is to give birth herself. If it's a cesarean section, it'll be faster, just one cut, but a natural birth may not be so easy. It takes time, so don't worry."

Dong Xuebing was restless. "Why does she have to give birth naturally? Nowadays, aren't all births cesarean sections? Natural birth is more painful, and it's also dangerous."

Han Jing explained, "There are risks, but natural birth is better for the baby and causes less damage to the mother's body. Recovery is faster."

Dong Xuebing grumbled, "Cesarean section is faster, less suffering."

Xie Jing chuckled beside him, "Brother-in-law, it'll be fine. Just put your mind at ease. My mom gave birth to my sister naturally, and you see how smart my sister is now. They say babies born by cesarean section are not as smart as those born naturally. My eldest sister is preparing for the worst."

Xie Hao raised his arm triumphantly and exclaimed, "I'm going to be an uncle, too!"

Xie Ran smiled, "You don't look like an uncle. Look at me, your brother. This is what being an uncle looks like."

"You're boasting. Keep boasting," Xie Hao chuckled and patted his chest, "Wait and see. See if the child is closer to you, the elder uncle, or to me, the younger uncle."

Xie Jing sighed, "In the blink of an eye, I will be an aunt and an elder. Sigh, I always thought I was still young, but this is a blow."

Xie Hao sniffed, "You're already twenty-seven or twenty-eight, and you're still pretending to be young."

Xie Jing got annoyed and reached out to hit him, "Who's pretending to be young?"

"It's not me, hehe, you're hitting me. Don't mess around," Xie Hao dodged with his head in his hands.

Xie Jing chased after him, "You always make fun of me. I'll teach you a lesson."

As the siblings teased each other, the atmosphere in the corridor relaxed a lot. Soon, Xie Guoliang and Xia Yanzhen, the second brother and his wife, arrived. Seeing them, they also smiled.

"Second brother and sister-in-law are here," Xie Guojian greeted.

Xie Guoliang nodded, "When the old man heard about it, he was as happy as a child. I and the nurse quickly stopped him. We can't let the old man run back and forth from afar."

Xie Guobang didn't say a word, sitting there and watching the operating room, remaining relatively calm.

Xia Yanzhen immediately asked about the situation and waited there with the others upon hearing that Huilan hadn't come out yet.

Almost all the members of the Xie family had arrived. The occasion was quite grand because this was the first boy of the fourth generation. Even Xie Guojian's wife, Cui Lifan, who was inspecting the outskirts, hurriedly dropped her work and drove over. Although the child would take the Dong surname, in the Xie family, where most of the third generation were only children, and being in the capital city, traditional blood ties had long since faded.

It's unclear how much time has passed.

Suddenly, the light outside of the operating room went out.

Dong Xuebing, staring at it, was the first to notice and rushed up immediately.

Xie Guobang's face tightened slightly, and he stood up abruptly. Huilan's father was not as calm as he appeared on the surface.

"The light's gone out."

"She must be coming out soon."

"Why isn't there any sound?"

The eyes of the Xie family members all turned to the operating room. Amid all the anticipation, the operating room door was pushed open from the inside. The female doctor came out; she knew Han Jing. However, seeing the municipal party secretary present, she first nodded respectfully to Xie Guobang before the other doctor, and two nurses behind her also held their breath, looking slightly tense as they glanced at the people in the corridor. Central leaders, ministerial-level cadres, and generals knew what kind of people were before them.

Dong Xuebing was the most anxious. He grabbed the female doctor, "Where's Huilan? Where's Huilan?"

The female doctor didn't mind and smiled, "She's inside. Congratulations, mother, and child are safe; it's a boy."

Chapter 1532: Finally met his child

Hospital.

Corridor.

After the female doctor announced the safety of the mother and child, the corridor erupted with excitement. Dong Xuebing was ecstatic, and Han Jing and Xia Yanzhen were joyful.

"She's given birth."

"That's great."

"How much does the baby weigh?"

"Six pounds two ounces."

"Alright, he's quite slim, huh?"

"Can we go in, doctor?"

"You'll have to wait a bit longer. Not now."

Even Xie Guobang, who rarely smiled, smiled at this moment and said to Han Jing, "Let Senior Xie know."

Han Jing smiled and said, "Right, almost forgot. Where's my phone?"

"Look at you, haha, use mine." Xie Guojian took out his phone and handed it over.

Han Jing immediately called Senior Xie's house, "Hey, Dad, she's given birth, six pounds two ounces, a chubby little boy, both mother and child are fine."

"That's great!" Senior Xie laughed heartily.

His laughter was loud enough for everyone nearby to hear.

Everyone exchanged glances and congratulated Xie Guobang, Han Jing, and Dong Xuebing.

After responding a few times, Dong Xuebing couldn't help but approach the operating room door again, leaning against the crack and trying to look inside. Still, he couldn't see anything, his expression showing how anxious he was.

Cui Lifen chuckled and pointed at Dong Xuebing, "This kid."

Han Jing also laughed, "Look how anxious my son-in-law is."

Xie Guobang said, "This kid if it weren't for Huilan stopping him just now, he would have barged in. I had to hold him back several times."

Cui Lifen glanced at her husband and chuckled, "Don't talk about other people's kids. Although Xiao Bing is impulsive, you were just as anxious to enter the delivery room when I gave birth to Xiao Hao. That's how parents are. They're all the same."

Xie Guobang looked at his son-in-law and said, "Tell your mother."

Han Jing quickly said, "Right, tell your in-laws too. Give me the phone in a moment."

Now, Dong Xuebing's mind focused solely on Huilan and the child, and he had no other thoughts. Hearing his father-in-law and mother-in-law's words, he finally realized that he couldn't neglect informing his mother about such a big event. He quickly took out his phone and dialed Luan Xiaoping's number.

"Hello?" answered his mother.

"Mom, it's me," Dong Xuebing said.

"I know it's you. What's wrong?" his mother asked.

Dong Xuebing exclaimed excitedly, "Huilan has given birth just now!"

"What? She's given birth already?" His mother's voice suddenly raised, "How is she? Is it a boy? How much does he weigh?"

"It's a boy, over six pounds," Dong Xuebing said.

"Good, that's good! You wait, I'm coming over right now."

"Oh, you're coming from so far away. No need to rush."

"Why shouldn't I rush? That's my chubby grandson. Can I not take a look? I have to see him. Okay, wait for me. I'll ask Old Yang to find a car and take me there."

"Oh, right, Huilan's mother wants to talk to you." Dong Xuebing handed the phone over.

Han Jing came over to take the phone, "Hello, in-law, hehe, it's me. It's great news, the house will be lively this time, right? Huilan has safely given birth, and I can finally relax. If you want to come over, it's great. I'll arrange for a car to pick you up."

Shortly after, a nurse came out from inside and nodded to a few doctors outside.

The female doctor nodded and smiled at the family members, "You can go in now, but only two people at a time, and only for about five minutes. The mother is quite thin and weak and needs to rest immediately, so please understand. Everything will be fine tomorrow."

Dong Xuebing hurriedly said, "I'll go, I'll go."

Xie Hao was speechless, "Why only allow two people in? I also want to see my nephew."

Xie Guoliang and Xie Guojian naturally wouldn't compete, so Xie Guobang took a step forward, ready to go inside with Dong Xuebing. However, as soon as he took a step, he was grabbed by his wife. Han Jing hastily hung up the phone and rushed in first. Xie Guobang could only helplessly shake his head. With Xie Guobang's status, no one would dare to stop him from entering the operating room. But since the doctor said only two people could go in, it must have been considered for various reasons, also for the sake of Huilan and the child. So, Xie Guobang waited outside.

Inside.

First, there was an outer room.

"Please put on these clothes," a nurse brought two blue antibacterial suits and hats for Dong Xuebing and Han Jing, making them look like they were undergoing surgery.

"Okay," Han Jing quickly put it on.

Dong Xuebing complained, "Your hospital is so troublesome. In other places, husbands can accompany their wives when they give birth. But here, they don't even let us in, and so many restrictions exist."

The young nurse smiled wryly, "It's the rules, and we"

"It's alright." Han Jing smiled at the nurse and then looked at her son-in-law, "Every hospital has different rules. Having more rules doesn't mean it's bad. It shows their professionalism and responsibility to the mother and child. Huilan is so thin, and the baby's weight isn't much. Their

physical condition must be lower than average. What if there are some bacteria? Alright, Xiao Bing, let's go in quickly. Mom can't wait any longer."

Dong Xuebing knew it might be because the hospital knew about Xie's background, so they became cautious. If it were an ordinary person giving birth, there probably wouldn't be such strict restrictions. So, he didn't say anything more and walked towards the opposite room.

"Wah, wah."

It was crying.

It was the baby's cry.

Dong Xuebing's breathing became rapid.

But Han Jing, who was fifty years old, was quicker to react than Dong Xuebing, a young man. She dashed into the room.

Dong Xuebing followed closely. As soon as he entered, he saw Xie Huilan lying on the bed. She was still awake and looked in good spirits, but her complexion was pale, and there was still some sweat on her forehead, giving off a somewhat exhausted aura. However, Huilan's eyes were full of maternal love as she smiled and gently rocked the chubby baby, letting him sway in her arms like on a swing. She was also speaking softly to the baby. It was the first time Dong Xuebing had seen Huilan with such a gentle expression. In the past, his wife always had a smiley face but was inwardly cold. Now, she looked exceptionally beautiful.

"Baby, good baby."

"Wah, wah."

"Don't cry, don't cry, Mommy is here."

"Wah, wah."

"You're a big boy. Listen to Mommy and stop crying."

The baby seemed to understand, or maybe he was just tired of crying, as he slowly stopped crying and curiously looked around, observing the world.

Han Jing and Dong Xuebing came in, and then the difference between the two became apparent.

Han Jing didn't even hesitate. She immediately focused on the baby, smiling uncontrollably as she stepped forward and took the baby into her arms. "Oh my, look at our handsome grandson. His nose looks like Huilan's, his eyes also resemble Huilan's, and his ears look like Xuebing's. Hehe, so good, really good."

Meanwhile, Dong Xuebing didn't glance at the baby but headed straight to Huilan's bedside. "How are you feeling? Are you in pain?"

Huilan smiled, "It hurts a little, but it's bearable."

Dong Xuebing felt distressed, "What should we do then?"

"It's okay, I'll be fine tomorrow, hehe."

"Then I'll stay with you today. I don't feel at ease leaving you alone."

"Don't worry, it's fine. You all go back. I'll be fine with the doctor here."

"Are you sure?"

"Hehe, I'm sure." Huilan reached out under the blanket, touched Dong Xuebing's hand, played with it momentarily, and then looked at Han Jing, "Our little husband is the best. Look at my mother. She doesn't even recognize her daughter when she sees her grandson. She doesn't even spare me a glance."

Holding the baby, Han Jing was pleased and said, "I've seen you for over thirty years. I'm tired of looking at you. Look, isn't my grandson cute?"

Huilan smiled lightly, "Let his dad hold him, too."

Han Jing suddenly remembered, "Xuebing, come."

"Hmm." Dong Xuebing, upon hearing this, became nervous and stiffly stood up, glanced at the baby, rubbed his hands, and then took him from Han Jing.

The baby looked at Dong Xuebing, grinned, and started crying again.

Dong Xuebing became flustered, "Be good, I'm your daddy, don't cry, don't cry." Despite trying to comfort him for a while, the baby kept crying.

Huilan waved her hand, "Give him to me."

Dong Xuebing had to hand the baby over to his wife carefully.

Huilan held the baby lovingly, kissed his cheek gently, then didn't do much to comfort him, and the baby stopped crying, peacefully resting in his mother's arms with big eyes open, unaware of his surroundings.

Dong Xuebing felt frustrated, "He just came out and slapped my face, this little troublemaker."

Han Jing laughed, "Boys usually favor their mothers more. It's natural. It'll be better in the future." After saying that, Han Jing went up again, "Huilan, let mom hold the baby again."

Huilan refused, "You've just held him for a while, don't fuss."

"Come on, Mom hasn't held him enough yet." Han Jing insisted and went up to snatch him. She no longer had the demeanor of the First Lady of the City, just a loving elder.

Huilan asked, "What about my dad and them?"

Han Jing replied, "They're all waiting outside. They weren't allowed in. The doctor said you're physically weak and must rest earlier, so let's return tomorrow."

Huilan nodded, "Then you all go back."

A doctor approached, "It's about time, what do you think?"

Han Jing reluctantly let go of the baby's hand, but seeing her daughter's exhausted appearance, she said nothing. After handing the baby to the doctor, she said, "Then rest well, Huilan."

Dong Xuebing immediately said, "Mom, you all go back. I won't leave."

"Huilan needs to rest. You won't be allowed in the ward later. Why stay?"

"I'll wait outside. If anything happens, I'll be able to handle it. We need someone here."

"Well, okay."

Chapter 1533: The name is settled

Three days later.

At the entrance of Senior Xie's villa.

As the Land Rover stopped, Dong Xuebing quickly exited the car and opened the rear door, carefully assisting Huilan, who was holding the baby, out of the car. Since his wife was discharged from the hospital after a normal delivery, she didn't need to stay in the hospital for more than a week like those who underwent a cesarean section. She had almost recovered her mobility in three days, but it was time for her to observe postpartum confinement. Even though Huilan could walk and her spirits were good, Dong Xuebing tried to minimize her movements. Observing the postpartum confinement period was a big deal. If not correctly observed, it could lead to many health issues in the future.

"Huilan is back!"

"Sis, you're finally out of the hospital!"

"Haha, my big nephew, quickly call me Uncle."

"Let Huilan and the baby come in first. It's hot outside, and there's a breeze here."

"Yes, hurry and come into the courtyard. Grandpa is waiting, and he hasn't seen the baby yet. Huilan, your fourth grandfather, is here today, playing chess with Grandpa."

Mostly, women came out to greet them, including Han Jing, Xia Yanzhen, Cai Lifen, and Xie Hao, Xie Ran, Xie Jing, and others. Han Jing also spotted Dong Xuebing's mother, Luan Xiaoping, who had arrived at the hospital three hours after Huilan gave birth and had been staying in the western suburbs since then.

Huilan smiled faintly, "Why did everyone come out? You're all elders. It's not necessary."

Xia Yanzhen laughed, "When have you, this girl, ever felt shy?"

Cai Lifen said, "I came out to hold the baby. When we were at the hospital the day before yesterday, everyone was competing to hold him. I didn't get a turn."

So Huilan handed the baby over, "Then Second Aunt, you hold him first."

"Sure thing!" Cai Lifen was delighted and took the baby, kissing him as if she liked him.

Xie Hao hurriedly said, "Mom, let me hold him for a while. Give him to me."

"You wait your turn." Xie Jing squeezed past, "Give him to me, give him to me, let me hold him first."

The baby became a treasure. Everyone wanted to hold him. After Cai Lifen finished, she handed him to Xie Hao, who hadn't held him steadily before Xie Jing snatched him away. Finally, Xie Ran held him once before handing the baby to Luan Xiaoping and Han Jing. The couple walked inside while holding the baby, chatting and laughing, and everyone else followed them into the courtyard. The baby wasn't shy at all. He blinked his big eyes at everyone, looking adorable. At the entrance,

only Huilan and Dong Xuebing were left. Since the baby was taken away, nobody paid attention to Huilan.

Huilan felt helpless.

"Do you see? Your husband is the best," Dong Xuebing boasted, reaching out to help her. "Let's go, we'll go in too."

Huilan didn't move, smiling gracefully. "I'm too lazy to move. Just serve me."

"Okay." Dong Xuebing didn't say anything more, scooped Huilan up in a princess carry, and walked into the villa courtyard with a cheerful smile.

"Slow down, you might drop me, Xie."

"Hey, you're being picky even when someone carries you."

Inside the villa.

When Dong Xuebing and his wife entered, they saw the baby in Senior Xie's arms. Senior Xie laughed heartily like a child, teasing the baby with his fingers, clearly delighted, and praising the baby's good looks.

"Old Fourth, you hold him too," Senior Xie said, handing the baby over.

Fourth Grandpa smiled and held the baby in his arms, "He's not crying or fussing. Good, he's a little man."

Entering the room, Xie Huilan smiled gently. "That was me saying hello to my son. I told him not to cry for a while. The little guy listens to me."

Fourth Grandpa looked at Huilan and pointed at her. "Look at you, all motherly. Well, at least someone can keep you in check now."

Dong Xuebing quickly greeted the elders, especially Fourth Grandpa. He politely exchanged greetings, knowing that Fourth Grandpa had given the word for his recent transfer. Fourth Grandpa was currently the highest-ranking member of the Xie family, a full member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee, and the Secretary of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection. Although he was younger than Senior Xie, he held an important position. Dong Xuebing had only seen Fourth Grandpa once, at his and Huilan's wedding. Otherwise, Fourth Grandpa was usually busy, and Dong Xuebing couldn't visit frequently, so he didn't have many opportunities to see him.

Fourth Grandpa beckoned. "Xuebing, come and sit."

Dong Xuebing helped Huilan onto the sofa and sat her down before going to Fourth Grandpa.

"Thank you for your help with my job."

Fourth Grandpa waved his hand. "You achieved it through your efforts. I've reviewed your file; you've done well. Keep up the good work."

"Of course."

"But your personality..."

Just as Fourth Grandpa was about to give Dong Xuebing some advice, Huilan on the sofa interrupted, "Whoever wants to criticize my husband, I won't be happy."

Fourth Grandpa chuckled at her, "This girl."

But everyone knew about Huilan's temper; they were used to it.

Han Jing smiled. "It's almost dinner time. We don't need the nanny to cook today; I'll cook myself."

Senior Xie waved his hand happily and took the baby from Fourth Grandpa again. As he played with the baby, he asked, "No rush for dinner. Have you decided on the baby's name?"

Han Jing said, "We've been thinking for a while, but we haven't come up with a good one."

Senior Xie looked at Luan Xiaoping. "In-law, how about you decide?"

Luan Xiaoping seemed a bit uneasy when facing so many current and former high-ranking central officials. She said, "My education level is low; I can't decide."

Han Jing said, "In-law, you're a teacher. Your cultural background is richer than mine. How could you have a low education level?"

"I haven't thought of a name yet," Luan Xiaoping said.

Dong Xuebing cleared his throat. "Well, actually, I've come up with a name. Let's hear what you think. Um, Dong Zhong."

Han Jing pondered, "Dong Zhong, Dong Zhong."

Huilan glanced at him. "Are you trying to make our son fat in the future?"

Dong Xuebing rolled his eyes. "Fat? Neither of us is fat. It's not about weight but about importance."

Xie Guobang pondered, "Hmm, I think this is good. The name is nice, simple, low-key, and weighty."

However, Han Jing and Huilan seemed slightly dissatisfied; perhaps they felt the name was too simple. Differences of opinion arose, but in the end, Senior Xie said it was fine. Fourth Grandpa said he neither liked nor disliked it, and Luan Xiaoping didn't mind. After discussing for a while, they ultimately followed Dong Xuebing's suggestion. After all, the baby had his father's surname, and traditionally, everyone respected Dong Xuebing's opinion.

Dong Zhong.

The baby's name was also settled.

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Dong Xuebing rolled his eyes. "Fat? Neither of us is fat. It's not about weight but about importance."

Xie Guobang pondered, "Hmm, I think this is good. The name is nice, simple, low-key, and weighty."

However, Han Jing and Huilan seemed slightly dissatisfied; perhaps they felt the name was too simple. Differences of opinion arose, but in the end, Senior Xie said it was fine. Fourth Grandpa said he neither liked nor disliked it, and Luan Xiaoping didn't mind. After discussing for a while, they ultimately followed Dong Xuebing's suggestion. After all, the baby had his father's surname, and traditionally, everyone respected Dong Xuebing's opinion.

Dong Zhong.

The baby's name was also settled.

Chapter 1534: Confinement month is over

Time flies.

In the blink of an eye, a month had passed.

This morning, in the second-floor bedroom of the Dong family villa,

"Waaah, waaah, waaah" The baby's crying continued incessantly.

Dong Xuebing, lying in bed, was awakened by the noise. Groaning, he turned over, too sleepy to open his eyes. However, the crying persisted, annoying him to no end. Throughout the month of Huilan's confinement, Dong Xuebing had hardly had a moment's peace. Initially, He was excited about taking care of the baby, but when it came down to it, Dong Xuebing felt like jumping off a building. He hadn't realized caring for a baby could be exhausting; little Dong Zhong never seemed quiet. Whether needing a diaper change, hungry, or just wanting attention, the baby would cry loudly. Sleep was also elusive; Dong Xuebing had to attend to him every time he woke up like he was tending to a little emperor. Sometimes, he couldn't even get four hours of sleep daily. And, of course, there was Huilan, the big boss, whom Dong Xuebing had to care for and tend to constantly. He was almost exhausted.

After a while, the crying stopped.

Dong Xuebing rubbed his eyes and glanced over to see his wife awake.

Xie Huilan lifted the baby from the bassinet beside the bed and began breastfeeding.

"Yummy yum yum." Baby Dong Zhong sucked contentedly, looking adorable.

Huilan lovingly stroked her son's head. "Take your time; there is no need to rush. There's no one here to snatch from you, little guy."

After weeks of rest, Xie Huilan had recovered almost completely. Her mobility and daily activities were back to normal, with the only difference being her figure. Before pregnancy, she had been very slim, but now she was a bit fuller. It would probably take a few more months to recover fully, but Huilan was beautiful as she was.

A more mature face.

A more substantial body.

A warmer and gentler smile.

Dong Xuebing leaned over. "Give me a sip too."

Huilan smiled and pushed his head away. "Nope, not for you."

"Oh, come on, I'm thirsty and too lazy to get up." Dong Xuebing's eyes gleamed.

"If you're too lazy, then be thirsty. I'm not giving in to your stingy ways." Huilan didn't budge.

"You think I care? Fine, I won't drink it. Look at you, such a miser." Dong Xuebing pretended to be offended.

Huilan chuckled. "I have insufficient milk supply. My son isn't getting enough; where would I find enough for you? Go make breakfast."

"You're always bossing me around. Aren't you done with confinement?"

"I still have to take care of the baby. Can't leave."

"Fine, fine. What time is your flight today?"

"Noon. There's still time. Oh, my mom is coming over later."

"I see. I'll make an extra breakfast then. Finally getting rid of you."

"Don't act like you don't want me to stay longer."

"You've been here for over a month. It's time for you to go to your job in the south. I want you to stay, but I can't keep you here forever."

"I can tell you're eager to see me go."

After bantering for a bit, the doorbell rang downstairs.

Dong Xuebing hadn't expected Han Jing to arrive so soon. He quickly put on his pajamas, crawled out of bed, and went downstairs to answer the door. Standing outside were two people: his mother-in-law, Han Jing, and a nanny, Dong Xuebing, who had often seen at Han Jing's house. The nanny was carrying a small suitcase.

"Mom," Dong Xuebing said, "come in quickly."

Han Jing smiled warmly, "Is Zhong Zhong awake?"

Dong Xuebing pointed upstairs. "Yes, he's awake. Huilan is feeding him."

"Alright, I'll go up and check on him." Han Jing couldn't wait and hurried upstairs.

"In that case, I'll make breakfast. You can come down to eat later," Dong Xuebing said without asking the nanny for help and went to the kitchen to start cooking.

It was past eight o'clock when Xie Huilan came downstairs.

Han Jing was behind her, holding little Zhong Zhong and showering him affectionately.

When Dong Xuebing came out, Xie Huilan glanced at him and gestured with her chin toward her mother, giving him a helpless smile. Dong Xuebing also smiled, knowing that the old folks loved the baby.

Breakfast was served.

Everyone sat down to eat together.

Han Jing hadn't eaten much, as she was busy playing with the baby. Reluctantly, she said, "Huilan, why are you insisting on taking the baby with you? It's such a long journey. What if he gets sick? How will he adapt to the different climates in the south? The air there is more humid. How about this: you go to your new position first; your appointment has already been made. You can't delay for too long. Leave little Zhong Zhong here with me. Mom will take good care of him. I raised you myself, so I have experience. I'll take better care of him than you can, and besides, you'll soon become the City Party Committee Secretary. You'll be too busy with work to take care of the baby. Ultimately, it will be the nanny taking care of him anyway. Just go and focus on your work. Leave the child behind."

Xie Huilan firmly said, "My son, I must take care of him."

Han Jing became angry. "I am not refusing to let you take him. You can care for him when he's older and goes to school. You'll have less to worry about then."

Xie Huilan shook her head. "No."

"Why is this child so disobedient?" Han Jing was displeased.

Xie Huilan smiled. "I usually let Aunt Wang take care of him when I'm busy. I always come home at night so I can care for him myself. I think it's fine." Then she looked at the nanny. "Aunt Wang, thank you for accompanying me this time. You cared for me when I was young, and I trust you. That's why I wanted to bring you along. Maybe I won't be able to return to Beijing for a while. Your husband and child can follow later. You can stay with me and the child. I'll have Xiao Bing buy a house for your husband in the local area."

Aunt Wang hurriedly said, "Miss, there's no need for that. You're too kind."

Seeing that her daughter had decided, Han Jing said nothing more. She sighed, "Then you must come back often. Bring Zhong Zhong back for me to see. Wait, I think you should not return. It's too much for the child to travel such long distances. When I am free, I'll have time to go to the south to see you."

Xie Huilan smiled warmly, "As the wife of a member of the Politburo when you go there, the local government won't be enough to receive you."

Han Jing pondered for a moment. "Mom will go secretly."

Xie Huilan said, "Let's talk about it later. Let me stabilize the situation first."

Han Jing said firmly, "As the mayor, you have many opportunities for your work to be carried out smoothly, and you have natural advantages in your authority. Stabilizing the situation shouldn't be a problem. Besides, Mom will come over whenever she has time. Whether you want it or not, it's

decided. It's not just you, this girl, who wants the child. Mom also wants Zhong Zhong. That's settled."

Dong Xuebing immediately said, "I'll go when I have time too."

Xie Huilan chuckled, "Do as you please."

Han Jing asked, "Is the luggage all packed?"

"Yeah, we packed it last night," Dong Xuebing gestured to the suitcase next to the sofa in the living room. "It's not much, just some clothes and medicine."

Han Jing nodded, "Let Huilan buy the rest when she arrives."

Suddenly, Xie Huilan looked at the nanny. "Aunt Wang, we haven't taken the baby's diapers yet. I'm afraid there won't be enough for the plane journey. Can you help me get a few packs?"

"Sure." Aunt Wang smiled and knew they had something to discuss, so she went upstairs.

Once she left, Xie Huilan looked at her mother. "I gave birth as soon as I came back. I haven't had a chance to communicate with Grandpa and the family. Well, this time, I can do whatever I want."

Han Jing glanced at her daughter. "Yes, you can."

Xie Huilan smiled gently. "That's good, then."

Han Jing continued, "This time, the decision for you to go down to the south for your new position was Grandpa's idea. Our family's personnel and position are now more substantial than ever. With your grandfather's influence and connections at the top, your fourth grandfather is in charge at the frontline, and below are your dad and your uncles. You know about the recent personnel changes; your uncles have all taken a big step. I don't know how many people are jealous. Our family gained the most from this round of changes. Although some of our allies and friends have been suppressed, our core strength is stable. Your Uncle Zhao, Aunt Liu, and Grandpa Li's positions haven't changed. Our family's influence has also increased."

Xie Huilan nodded. "I didn't expect to gain so much from this round of changes, especially for my second uncle."

"It's all thanks to the hard drive that Xiao Bing brought back from Florida. It helped your second uncle a lot." Han Jing looked at her son-in-law with satisfaction. He continued, "And Huilan, the original intention of the family to arrange activities for you was to appoint you as the mayor of a prefecture-level city in the south. But unexpectedly, there was a sudden event, and Xiao Bin helped you solve it perfectly. Grandpa didn't expect that, so he changed his mind at the last minute and tried to push you to the City Party Committee Secretary position. Otherwise, with your qualifications, it would have taken at least one to two years to have a chance to compete for the top position in a prefecture-level city."

Dong Xuebing felt a bit flattered by the praise.

Xie Huilan patted Dong Xuebing's hand. "You see, I have a good eye for picking a husband, huh?"

Han Jing laughed. "This time, Grandpa intends to let you go all out. You don't need to be as low-key as before. Our third generation of the family has just begun to emerge. This time, you becoming the City Party Committee Secretary is also the time to show yourself. As long as you stand firm, it will be easier for Xiao Ran and the others to move up in the future. Your dad said this is a crucial step.

You are the eldest sister of the younger generation, and you need to set an example for them, take the lead, and bring Xiao Ran and the others up. Otherwise, our family will decline if we don't make an effort now. Take advantage of your fourth grandfather's presence, and lay the foundation early. Do you understand what Mom means?"

Xie Huilan nodded. "How come Xiao Ran isn't taking the lead? He's the leader of our family's third generation. What's my role?"

Han Jing whispered, "Grandpa is not reassured. Xiao Ran will be a key figure in the future, but he's still far behind you right now. In terms of temperament and political experience, he's not as good as you. Among the younger generation of our family, only you can satisfy Grandpa and reassure him."

Xie Huilan said, "I understand."

Chapter 1535: Xiao Dong is ready

At noon, in the Capital Airport, amidst a crowd, Dong Xuebing, along with Xie Ran, Xie Jing, Xie Hao, and others, saw off Xie Huilan and the nanny and child in the airport hall. Han Jing was also there.

"Let's go back," Han Jing said.

"Sis, have a safe journey."

"Sister, remember to call often."

"Be careful on the plane. Cover the baby's ears during takeoff and landing."

The baby had already been born for over fourteen days, so he was eligible for a children's ticket. After Xie Huilan completed the formalities, she waved goodbye to everyone with a smile. Han Jing and the others stayed behind while Dong Xuebing reluctantly followed up, kissing Huilan and the child a few times. Although he had thought about letting Huilan leave earlier, he still found it hard to part with her now. He lingered awfully before watching his wife and child disappear down the escalator.

"Brother-in-law, shall we go?" Xie Ran asked.

Only then did Dong Xuebing reluctantly retract his gaze and say, "Yeah."

Xie Jing chuckled, "My sister is so smart and capable. She definitely won't stay there for long. She'll be back at most in half a year or a year."

Dong Xuebing sighed, "If not, I can go there."

Dong Xuebing would rather Huilan not take on the role of City Party Secretary. He still wanted to live with his wife and child. After having a son, Dong Xuebing felt a heavier sense of responsibility. Even his mentality had changed. Before, he had thought only of himself. He even boasted about becoming a national-level leader when he first entered the system. But now, he found it somewhat laughable. With the birth of his son, Dong Xuebing's ambition had waned significantly.

Xie Hao grinned and comforted him, "Brother-in-law, my sister's promotion is good. If I were in your shoes and could marry a City Party Secretary, I'd laugh in my dreams. I'd walk with my back straighter than usual."

His words amused Dong Xuebing, "You're already thinking about getting married at your age? Focus on your studies."

Xie Hao snorted, "I've already started preparing for the college entrance exam. Brother-in-law, I have to remind you, don't forget what you said before. If I get into university, you must buy me an Audi A8."

Dong Xuebing blinked, "Did I say that?"

Xie Hao exclaimed, "You're trying to wriggle out of it? I'll tell Mom and Sis!"

Everyone laughed, and Han Jing couldn't help but smile. None of these youngsters looked like adults. They behaved like children. However, what pleased Han Jing was that the children in their family didn't have the same rivalry between siblings as in other political families. They got along well with each other. While internal family struggles could motivate family members to be more urgent and progressive, and competition could benefit the family, Han Jing didn't like that atmosphere. A family should first have a sense of family. If the younger generation was busy plotting against each other, what kind of family was that?

Outside the airport, everyone came out.

"Auntie, where are you going?" Xie Ran asked. "Let me take you back."

Han Jing waved her hand, "You guys have a lot of things to do. Just let Xiao Bing take me."

Xie Hao immediately exclaimed, "I'm not busy, I'm not busy. Brother-in-law, I'll go to your house, and you can continue teaching me martial arts."

Dong Xuebing was about to speak when Han Jing said, "Xiao Hao, you go back and do your homework. Xiao Bing and I have something to discuss. You practice another day."

Xie Ran, Xie Jing, and the rest left.

Dong Xuebing opened the car door for Han Jing, closed it after she got in, then took the driver's seat and drove towards Han Jing's villa.

On the way, Dong Xuebing asked, "Mom, is there something on your mind?"

Han Jing nodded, "You should be going to work tomorrow, right?"

"Yeah," Dong Xuebing sighed, "I originally only took less than a month off, but because Huilan gave birth, I took more than half a month off. I should have reported to work at the unit earlier. Sigh, I don't even know how much I'll be delayed by going in tomorrow. If work doesn't proceed smoothly, it'll be a problem."

Han Jing said, "It's okay."

Dong Xuebing looked puzzled, "Hmm, okay?"

Han Jing affirmed and continued, "The family's intention is for you to keep a low profile as much as possible. Although the department you're taking over isn't low-key, you must handle the situation with discretion. Have you ever seen anyone become a department head at the Division Chief level at just twenty-six? Even though your wife is now the City Party Secretary, she was only a Deputy Division Chief at twenty-six. By then, Huilan had already been talked about by many. Not to mention you. It's still best to keep a low profile. If I were to say it's better not to meddle in anything.

Just treat it as a time to retire for a while. First, it'll give you time to dilute the troubles you caused before, and second, it's also to conserve your strength."

Dong Xuebing laughed, "That sounds good. I've been exhausted these past few years. Besides, I've just been promoted to Division Chief, and even if I achieve results, I won't be able to climb any higher. I want to take it easy for half a year."

Han Jing continued, "It doesn't mean you should ignore everything. As long as you have a sense of it in your heart."

Dong Xuebing nodded, "I'll listen to you."

Han Jing nodded, "This is also your dad's intention. Your dad and the family discussed your promotion this time for a long time, and it wasn't until the end that they made up their minds. The department you're going to is big and complex, but precisely because of this, it will allow you not to be too conspicuous. Secure your position as a department head first. Your dad hopes you can support your wife and help Huilan establish herself in the south. You heard what Mom said to Huilan earlier. Huilan's transfer this time is critical, and there can't be any mishaps."

Dong Xuebing wondered, "Can I even get involved in Huilan's affairs?"

Han Jing helplessly said, "Even if you haven't taken up your position yet, you should have understood the functions and scope of your department's work in advance. Why haven't you taken it seriously?"

Dong Xuebing felt embarrassed, "Uh because the baby was born, I didn't have time to think about it."

This guy lacks experience and isn't from a bureaucratic family background, so he doesn't understand some common-sense issues that others might. Every time, he scrambles at the last minute.

Han Jing didn't mind, "You'll know the specific matters after you take office. Your dad and the family have put a lot of thought and resources into the position you're going to. Do your best."

"I will, Mom. I won't let you and Dad down."

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Chapter 1536: First Day of Appointment

Two days later.

Early in the morning.

In a residential area in the western part of the city.

Dong Xuebing got out of bed inside the apartment, brushed his teeth, and washed up. He checked the time and realized he was running late for work. However, Dong Xuebing remained relaxed and unhurried. He casually made a packet of Kang Shifu instant noodles in the kitchen, added an egg, and ate leisurely. He felt content; it had been a while since he had been this relaxed. Finally, he lit a cigarette and smoked while tidying up and preparing for work.

The apartment was insignificant, just a tiny two-bedroom apartment of about sixty square meters. The living room was not spacious, and the two bedrooms were relatively modest. The conditions and furnishings in the apartment were relatively simple, but Dong Xuebing didn't mind. This was the dormitory for cadres of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, so it was expected to be much cleaner than other departments. Dong Xuebing understood this personally and didn't fuss over it too much. He thought it didn't matter whether the living conditions were good or bad; they couldn't be worse than those in Zhen Shui County, a national-level impoverished county. He was used to living there, let alone here. Although the neighborhood was old, it was located in the central-western part of the city, the downtown area of Beijing. Transportation and shopping were relatively convenient, and facilities were complete. Most importantly, it was very close to the unit. So, Dong Xuebing didn't go to his villa in the western suburbs. After reporting to the unit yesterday, Dong Xuebing took the key and luggage and moved in the afternoon. He spent the time alone browsing the internet and watching TV, enjoying himself.

It was ten o'clock.

Dong Xuebing finally left the apartment and found the old Xiali car parked under a Chinese Toon tree in the courtyard. He drove out of the neighborhood. The Xiali had two boxes; the body was scratched, and the paint was peeling off in many places. It looked shabby, but Dong Xuebing borrowed it from Xie Ran and Xie Jing for half a day. Dong Xuebing had already given Xie Ran and Xie Jing an Audi A8 each. The Xiali was their previous commuting vehicle, which they no longer needed, so Dong Xuebing took it. Although the condition of the car was worse than that of a Land Rover or Porsche, it had one advantage that Dong Xuebing valued: low-key, not attracting attention.

His mother-in-law wanted him to keep a low profile.

His mother-in-law wanted him to get by.

Dong Xuebing remembered that and decided to do so.

Five minutes later.

Ping An Li West Street.

Dong Xuebing drove the creaky old Xiali and arrived at the unit. The reason for saying "creak" was that the Xiali was too old, and the engine's sound was loud. Listening to the old engine roar made people feel like the car could fall apart anytime. It was really in poor condition. However, Dong Xuebing drove it with relish. New job, new environment. Nobody knew him, nobody understood

him. This was a new beginning. Dong Xuebing enjoyed the feeling of starting from scratch. He was tired of the infamous taste.

The Central Commission for Discipline Inspection.

There were no signs or markings outside the central courtyard or any military-restricted area signs. However, armed police stood guard, and the entire compound was surrounded by a more than 4-meter-high, more than 2-meter-thick gray brick wall. It exuded a solemn atmosphere.

As soon as the car arrived, the armed police immediately approached.

Dong Xuebing rolled down the car window and showed his work permit.

The armed police nodded and let Dong Xuebing pass.

Dong Xuebing drove the Xiali yesterday when he came, but since he had just reported, he hadn't had time to get his pass, so he could only rely on his work permit to come and go.

Inside the compound.

It was more like a work area than a unit.

The courtyard was densely packed with buildings, some six or seven stories high, some four or five stories high, with old and new buildings. There were also some dense parking lots and bicycle sheds. Almost every building had formed a small independent office area, with even the canteen having two or three sections labeled as canteen number one, canteen number two, and canteen number three. Dong Xuebing glanced around and continued driving inward. His unit was the farthest inside; even if he drove in, it would take two minutes, and he had to pass through two or three rows of office buildings and an internal convenience supermarket.

Quarter past ten.

The Xiali car finally arrived under a five-story office building.

Dong Xuebing parked the car in an open-air parking area below the building. After closing the car door, he walked slowly into the office building. He climbed the stairs to the fourth floor. As soon as he reached the fourth-floor landing, he saw a sign hanging on the wall: "Eighth Discipline Inspection and Supervision Office of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection." This floor was the work area for the Eighth Office. The corridor was spacious, with several work areas and offices inside. Dong Xuebing turned into an office area labeled "Second Division." Inside were partitioned rooms, the sound of copiers, the clacking of computer keyboards, and the ringing of telephones. Everyone was busy working. It was past ten; their regular working hours started at nine. Except for Dong Xuebing, everyone else had arrived early.

"Director Dong."

"Director Dong, good morning."

The two people nearby greeted Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing smiled and returned their greetings, then walked towards his office and closed the door behind him.

The people in the office area all glanced in that direction.

Being late for more than an hour on the first day of work made many people speechless.

Who doesn't try to make a good impression on the leader on the first day of work? But you seem to treat it as nothing. Everyone wasn't particularly surprised because everyone sitting in this office was not simple, and none of them lacked background. Many people had different expressions—some smiled, some sat quietly working without lifting their heads, and some frowned and shook their heads.

Inside the office.

After Dong Xuebing entered, he glanced around. The layout was relatively simple, but everything essential was there. Sitting behind his desk, Dong Xuebing squinted and looked back at the sunlight streaming in through the window. He whistled softly, then turned on the water dispenser's heating switch, brought over the teapot, took the tea leaves from his bag, and brewed tea.

Sprinkle the tea leaves.

Wait for the water temperature.

Pour water to brew tea.

All in one go, the office was filled with the fragrance of tea.

Dong Xuebing lifted a small teacup, took a sip, and felt at ease.

On the first day in office, it's common to report to the leader, express oneself, meet with subordinates, communicate, and even give a speech to enhance one's prestige and let them understand oneself a little. These are all standard procedures. However, since his mother-in-law said Dong Xuebing should keep a low profile, he didn't do any of that. He didn't even look at documents or ask the leader for tasks. Because he understood that his understanding of keeping a low profile might differ from others. In Dong Xuebing's view, with his personality, he probably couldn't keep a low profile no matter where he went. He might as well do nothing and not get involved in anything. After all, in such a large department, one more or one less person wouldn't make much of a difference.

The Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) has relatively bloated internal institutions.

These include the General Office, the Central Inspection Work Office, the Research Office, the Policy and Regulation Office, the Propaganda and Education Office, the First Discipline Inspection and Supervision Office, the Second Discipline Inspection and Supervision Office, the Third Discipline Inspection and Supervision Office, the Fourth Discipline Inspection and Supervision Office, the Fifth Discipline Inspection and Supervision Office, the Sixth Discipline Inspection and Supervision Office, the Seventh Discipline Inspection and Supervision Office, the Eighth Discipline Inspection and Supervision Office, the Party Conduct and Clean Government Building Office, the Office for Correcting Departmental and Industry Malpractices, the State Council Office for Rectifying Malpractices, the Law Enforcement and Supervision Office, the Case Handling Office, the Case Supervision and Management Office, the Prevention Office, the Petition Office, the Cadre Office, the Foreign Affairs Bureau, the General Affairs Management Bureau, the Retired Cadres Bureau, and the Organizational Party Committee.

Among these, the Discipline Inspection and Supervision Offices, from one to eight, are the most critical executive departments within the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection.

Dong Xuebing previously served as the Director of the Discipline Inspection and Supervision Office in Fenzhou City, a position similar to his current one. However, the scope of authority is quite different. The eight Discipline Inspection and Supervision Offices of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection have specific arrangements: Offices one to four mainly supervise and inspect the various ministries and commissions of the state, while Offices five to eight are responsible for the discipline inspection and supervision work of local provinces, autonomous regions, and Cities, with the Eighth Office mainly responsible for the six provinces in the central and southern regions.

Overseeing six significant provinces.

The weight of authority is evident.

The department where Dong Xuebing is located is the Second Division of the Eighth Discipline Inspection and Supervision Office of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection. He is currently a division-level inspector and supervisor of the Eighth Discipline Inspection and Supervision Office of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection. Although Dong Xuebing's rank is equivalent to that of a Deputy Director of a division and some highly-ranked deputy directors, his current position is not a leadership position, just a nominal one. In terms of power, it is not comparable to substantive cadres with leadership positions. However, being in such a powerful department as the Eighth Office of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, even as a Division-level inspector, carries considerable weight. Previously, two people called Dong Xuebing "Director Dong." Strictly speaking, his position does not warrant this title. Still, since this is the political arena, even deputy directors are called directors, and Dong Xuebing is a Division-level cadre. Being called "Director Dong" is justified and sounds much better than "Inspector Dong."

As for the functions of the Second Division under the Eighth Discipline Inspection and Supervision Office, they are also subdivided.

The scope of supervision and oversight of the Second Division includes two provinces in the central and southern regions, one of which is the province where Dong Xuebing's wife has taken office this time, the province of Jiangnan.

After Dong Xuebing understood this, he also understood the meaning of his mother-in-law's words the day before yesterday and why he was asked to protect Hui Lan. Because this is indeed within his jurisdiction. The Eighth Office is mainly responsible for investigating and handling deputy provincial-level and higher-ranking party members and cadres in local areas, including deputy provincial governors, governors, and even provincial party secretaries. Dong Xuebing has the right to investigate them, equivalent to holding a mighty sword. Of course, investigating and supervising cadres above the deputy provincial level is not simple; it requires following procedures and applying to higher authorities. But at least there is authority, and they also have a vague supervisory authority over cities and districts under the province's jurisdiction. This is a deterrent.

In the future, anyone who dares to hinder Huilan might have to consider whether Dong Xuebing will lose his temper first.

Chapter 1537: Chief Dong, What's your background?

Morning.

In his own office.

Dong Xuebing didn't go out all morning or take a step out the door. He brewed tea inside, flipping through several files of personnel in the Eighth Office and Second Department, and played a lively music piece. Although he didn't intend to do anything, he needed to know the names. Otherwise, it would be a joke. Sitting with his legs crossed, smoking, drinking tea, and listening to songs, Dong Xuebing felt quite content. In so many years of being an official, he enjoyed such relaxation for the first time. Dong Xuebing felt he had wasted his previous days striving for what? Fighting for what? Wasn't it all for a better future? Dong Xuebing now realized belatedly that he had far surpassed his peers, already possessing many rights and status that many people could not obtain. He could completely enjoy this rare leisure time. After working so hard for so many years, it was time to relax for a few months. It's great.

Five minutes.

Ten minutes.

Lunch break time arrived.

Dong Xuebing yawned, stretched lazily, cracked two melon seeds, spat out the shells, then stretched lazily and stood up, pushing the door open.

Outside.

Everyone was also resting, preparing to eat.

In their department, including all the leaders, there were only seven or eight people in total. Although not many, without exception, everyone was a cadre. Apart from the director of the Second Department, Yin Cheng'an, and the deputy director of the Second Department, Chen Dayou, the highest rank was Dong Xuebing, a supervisor at the Division Chief level. The other subordinates included even deputy supervisors; the lowest rank was a Deputy Section Chief-level cadre.

Dong Xuebing had already sorted out everyone's names in a short time.

Suddenly, a middle-aged man with a kind and gentle appearance came in from outside, and with a smile on his face, he said, "Lunch break, everyone has worked hard. Oh, Director Dong, you're here. I had someone apply for sick leave for you this morning, thinking you weren't feeling well." This was the director of the Second Department, their department head, Yin Cheng'an. Dong Xuebing had met him yesterday when he reported. He smiled and said, "It's alright. I'll have the sick leave canceled later. It's good that you're here. I thought you were sick."

Dong Xuebing was also sincere, "I overslept and made you worry. I'm sorry, Director Yin."

Yin Cheng'an smiled kindly. "It's okay. Today is your first official day at work, and you haven't had a meal in the unit yet. Let me show you around."

Dong Xuebing smiled, "Thank you, Director Yin."

A girl in her twenties, about the same age as Dong Xuebing, suddenly giggled, "Director Yin, I also don't know my way around. Could you show me too?"

Yin Cheng'an pointed at her and laughed, "You little girl, you've been here for two years, and I still don't know my way around as well as you do. You want a free meal, don't you? I know you."

Dong Xuebing knew her. This girl was called Han Fei.

Han Fei giggled, "Caught red-handed by you. I'm broke. I don't even have money on my meal card. I've been so poor lately."

"I'm scared of you." Yin Cheng'an wasn't angry either and called out to the others. "Alright, today I'll treat. Xiao He, Xiao Sun, Xiao Zhang, let's go together. Old Chen is on a business trip. It looks like he won't have the luck today, haha. Let's go, but I'll make it clear to you all first. Twenty RMB per person, I won't treat anyone who goes over."

Han Fei immediately exclaimed, "Just twenty? You're so stingy!"

Yin Cheng'an laughed heartily, "We should promote the spirit of austerity. Twenty RMB is already a lot. Do you want to bankrupt me?"

Sun Zhaobang and Zhang Dongliang behind him smiled slightly.

Sun Zhaobang, a chubby man in his early thirties, said, "Then I'll have three chicken legs."

Yin Cheng'an glanced at him, "Look at how fat you are. You should eat less."

He Zhou, also in his early thirties, chuckled, "Three chicken legs and a bowl of rice, we're all sticking to the twenty RMB limit. No need to be polite with Director Yin."

Yin Cheng'an laughed and pointed at them, "You guys."

Seeing this scene, Dong Xuebing was a bit surprised. Based on his experience, he always thought the Discipline Inspection Commission was a very conservative department. For example, it was like that when he was in the Discipline Inspection Commission in Fenzhou City. Everyone was serious, making the atmosphere in the office especially cold. This was the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, and Dong Xuebing thought it would be even more so. Who would have thought it was not the case at all? The atmosphere within the Second Department was unexpectedly like this, with an easy-going leader. This female cadre dared to say anything, and even several inspectors dared to joke with their superiors. It was indeed an exciting department. Dong Xuebing observed them for a moment.

After gathering, everyone went downstairs together.

They chatted and laughed along the way, but Dong Xuebing didn't say much, just listened to their conversation. He had decided to keep a low profile and spoke very little.

Ahead was the third canteen.

There were quite a few people; almost a hundred had arrived.

Dong Xuebing and the others went in to order their food. No one offered to help Yin Cheng'an and Dong Xuebing get their food, not even a single question. Everyone just got their food. Dong Xuebing didn't feel anything strange about it. He used to get his food when he worked before. He went to the counter and ordered some simple dishes with meat and vegetables. Initially, he wanted to treat everyone, but he hadn't gotten a meal card yet, so he used Yin Cheng'an's meal card.

Ten minutes later.

The people from the Second Department found a small table and sat down.

"I can't wait to eat." Yin Cheng'an chuckled and took the first bite. He also told Dong Xuebing, "Try the dishes here. The stir-fry at the third canteen is quite good."

Dong Xuebing took a bite and nodded slightly, "It's delicious."

Since Dong Xuebing didn't speak much, everyone didn't chat with him much either. They weren't very familiar with each other.

Only Han Fei, with her small eyes, kept staring at him. Suddenly, she asked, "Director Dong, what's your background?"

Dong Xuebing almost choked on his food, "Ah."

Yin Cheng'an was amused, "Little Han, can't you keep quiet while eating?"

Sun Zhaobang, Zhang Dongliang, and He Zhou remained silent. This girl dared to say anything.

"I'm just curious." Han Fei looked at Dong Xuebing with big eyes, "Director Dong and I are the same age, but I'm only a regular Section Chief cadre now. The gap is too big, and it undermines my confidence."

He Zhou, Sun Zhaobang, and the others were also curious. They still remembered the shock when they heard that a supervisor at the Division Chief level, who was only twenty-six years old, was coming to take office. This age, this rank, was speechless. But curiosity aside, it wasn't something they would ask about directly.

Dong Xuebing smiled faintly, "I don't have any background."

Sun Zhaobang immediately said, "Feifei, just eat your food."

Han Fei muttered, "If you don't want to say, then don't."

Dong Xuebing wasn't angry. He was a laid-back person and quite liked Han Fei's lively personality.

Chapter 1538: First assignment

Dong Xuebing and his colleagues walked out of the third cafeteria after lunch.

"It's alright here, Director Dong," one of them commented.

"It's very delicious. Thank you for treating us, Director Yin," Dong Xuebing replied.

"Hehe, you're welcome. I have some work to attend to," Yin Cheng'an said as he headed off.

"Alright, I'm going back to the office too. Let me know if there's any work for me," another colleague said.

"Sure, but when there's no case, we don't have much work either," Yin Cheng'an replied.

Although Dong Xuebing was now assigned to the Eighth Discipline Inspection and Supervision Office, Second Division, in terms of rank, he and Yin Cheng'an were about equal. Even though it was a nominal position, their rank was at the Division Chief level. However, Dong Xuebing knew he was still technically Yin Cheng'an's subordinate and had to listen to him regarding work tasks. How to handle relationships with colleagues is easy for Dong Xuebing after several years of work. He was generally a friendly person and wouldn't make such low-level mistakes.

As Yin Cheng'an walked away, Dong Xuebing nodded to the others and smiled before returning to the supervision office.

Keeping a low profile, Dong Xuebing achieved it to the extreme on his first day at work.

Once Dong Xuebing was out of earshot, the others started talking.

"Isn't our new leader too low-key? He's been in office but doesn't seem to know anything. He didn't even treat us to a meal or engage in any communication. He's even late on his first day. How did he get promoted to director? I heard he should have reported for duty half a month ago, but he only came yesterday," Han Fei grumbled.

"He's not considered a leader, just a colleague," He Zhou said.

"He's a Division Chief level inspector. Even without a specific position, he's still a leader. It all depends on how the higher-ups allocate the work. But why is he so young?" Sun Zhaobang remarked.

"And he's boring, can't even make a fart with an iron rod," Han Fei muttered.

Zhang Dongliang laughed. "He's just a disciplinary inspection officer. Miss Han, not everyone talks as much nonsense as you do. Do you think everyone has the same background as you? I almost spat out my food when I heard you just now. Fortunately, Director Dong didn't seem to get angry."

Han Fei glanced at him. "Xiao Zhang, do you dare to criticize me?"

Zhang Dongliang raised his hands in surrender with a wry smile. "Of course not. Who dares to criticize you, Miss Han?"

Everyone laughed. Perhaps it was because of the easy-going demeanor of the top leader, but the atmosphere within the Second Department of the Disciplinary Inspection Office was amicable. There wasn't as much intrigue as in other departments. It was expected to joke around and gossip. Perhaps because the atmosphere was too relaxed, Han Fei had asked Dong Xuebing a direct question earlier. However, Dong Xuebing's casual response had upset her a bit.

They went to the convenience store to buy some ice cream and cold drinks and Han Fei, He Zhou, and others returned to the office building while eating and drinking. They returned to the office area of Department Two.

Inside, there was no one around.

In Director Dong's office, Beethoven's symphony was playing again. The volume wasn't high, but everyone could hear it clearly, leaving them all speechless.

On the first day of work, it's like this.

Is this guy too leisurely?

Did he come here to work or to play?

Even Zhang Dongliang, who had just spoken up for Dong Xuebing, felt dumbfounded. He had worked for many years and had seen all kinds of leaders: some were lecherous, some were wealthy, some were powerful, some had terrible tempers, some had good personalities, and some were hypocritical. But Dong Xuebing, a leader who was so relaxed and shut himself in on his first day, was something he had never seen before.

How did we end up with such a leader?

Who appointed him to this position?

Inside the room.

Dong Xuebing listened to the music while smoking a cigarette. After finishing his meal, he wiped the tea set again and started brewing tea. This time it was Pu'er tea to change the flavor.

Rinsing the tea leaves, brewing the tea, drinking it.

Dong Xuebing's technique became more and more skilled.

While drinking, Dong Xuebing took out his phone. He wanted to ask his wife about the situation, but he was afraid she was too busy to answer the call. So, he sent a text message instead.

Ding ding.

The reply came: Having lunch with some colleagues.

Dong Xuebing: Haha, I just finished eating too.

Xie Huilan: How's it going over there?

Dong Xuebing: Drinking tea, smoking, listening to music. It's pretty enjoyable.

Xie Huilan: It's good that not many people there know about your background. Keep a low profile.

Dong Xuebing: Yeah, Mom said the same. I'm glad to get some rest finally.

Xie Huilan: cultivating a low-key image now will lay the foundation for the future. You shouldn't always be in the spotlight, no matter how capable you are. Moderation is the way to govern. You'll understand it yourself. I won't bother you anymore. I'm busy.

Dong Xuebing: Okay, go ahead. I'll see you when you're free.

Xie Huilan: I contacted an old friend from the Discipline Inspection Commission yesterday. He'll come to see you today, that's all.

Dong Xuebing: Your friend?

Xie Huilan: A family member of a leader close to our family.

Dong Xuebing: Also from the Xie family's network. Got it. Take care, okay?

After closing the message, Dong Xuebing threw his phone on the table, crossed his legs, extinguished the cigarette butt, and continued to enjoy his Pu'er tea with its rich flavor.

Afternoon work began.

However, Dong Xuebing continued to do things his way, showing no intention of working at all.

Around two o'clock, there was a sudden knock on the door, knock, knock, twice.

Dong Xuebing looked up and casually turned off the music on his computer, cleared the tea set away, and confidently said, "Please come in."

As the door opened, a man in his thirties walked in, holding a document, and smilingly said, "You must be Director Dong Xuebing."

Dong Xuebing glanced at him and replied, "Yes, that's me. And you are?"

He hadn't seen this person before; he wasn't from Department Two.

The man walked in, closed the door behind him, and introduced himself, "I'm Lan Xuewen, the deputy director of the Comprehensive Information Department of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection."

Dong Xuebing was surprised but stood up to shake hands with him, "Nice to meet you, Director Lan."

Lan Xuewen also shook his hand and smiled, "Just call me Old Lan."

"Do you have something to discuss?" Dong Xuebing invited him to sit and pushed a tea cup toward him. "I just brewed this tea."

"I'm quite thirsty. Thank you." Lan Xuewen smiled, took a sip of tea, and nodded approvingly.

"This Pu'er tea has been aged for quite some time. It's excellent." Afterward, he handed the document to Dong Xuebing, "This is a report letter we received, along with the handling suggestions from the General Office. Originally, it was meant for Director Yin, but since he's not here and Deputy Director Chen Dayou is away on a business trip, I just spoke with Director Yin, and he asked me to give you a copy. You can show it to Director Yin later. Please take a look."

Dong Xuebing didn't want to take on additional tasks voluntarily, but since the work had come and Director Yin had instructed him, he couldn't refuse. That would be a matter of work attitude. So, he opened the document and skimmed through it. It wasn't a significant case; it involved a Deputy Mayor of Jiangdong Province, who had allegedly initiated several large-scale infrastructure projects and meaningless constructions during his term, resulting in a significant waste of resources. It implicated two cities and the Deputy Provincial Mayor, so it was reported to the Eighth Office. However, Dong Xuebing also noticed that there were no instructions from higher-ups for an investigation; they only needed to understand the situation. Although Dong Xuebing had just taken office at the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, he had worked for local disciplinary committees for quite some time. He could tell from the instructions that this matter wouldn't escalate to a full-scale investigation. Most likely, they were just supposed to monitor and supervise it, sending a message to those below. If they were going to take action against the Deputy Mayor, they wouldn't have a member of the petition office deliver the documents so casually. Dong Xuebing understood this at a glance.

After reading it, Dong Xuebing nodded and said, "Okay, I'll pass the document to Director Yin later."

"Thank you for your help." Lan Xuewen smiled but didn't leave, still sipping his tea.

Dong Xuebing glanced at him suspiciously but didn't kick him out. After all, they were nearly equal in rank.

At this moment, Lan Xuewen suddenly said, "Sister Xie called me yesterday. She knows I've been working here for many years and I'm familiar with various aspects of the situation. So, she asked me to come and help you sort out the situation here, to facilitate your understanding and work."

Dong Xuebing was stunned for a moment, then he smiled and stood up again, extending his hand, "I see. I just spoke with Huilan. She told me."

The two shook hands again.

Dong Xuebing said, "Then I'll call you Brother Lan."

Lan Xuewen quickly smiled and said, "Please don't. Just call me Old Lan. Your wife and I are old friends from years ago. I must address her as Sister Xie or Sister Huilan when I see her. If you call me Brother, won't I feel like I'm getting old? Besides, if Sister Xie finds out, she might give me a hard time. Hehe."

Since they were all insiders, their conversation became much more intimate.

Chapter 1539: 2nd Department's Situation

Afternoon.

Inside the office.

Dong Xuebing and Lan Xuewen sat together, chatting while drinking tea, intentionally deepening their relationship.

"Sister Huilan gave birth."

"Yeah, she's done with her postpartum recovery."

"My dad mentioned it. I was thinking of going to congratulate her, but I heard that Sister Huilan was staying at Grandpa Xie's villa, so I didn't dare to intrude."

"Well, mainly because Grandpa isn't in good health, and Huilan just gave birth, so she's not feeling well. That's why we didn't invite everyone or organize a banquet. We feel a bit embarrassed about it. We'll see later when the baby reaches one month or a hundred days. But now that Huilan has taken up her new position in the local government, she's quite busy. It seems the banquet might not happen."

"Sister Huilan has risen in one step, becoming the City party secretary. But it's also her strong abilities; she deserves the position. I'm not surprised at all. You probably don't know, but we all lived in the same compound and played together when we were kids. Back then, our parents often said, 'Look at Xie Lan. She's so smart.' Sister Huilan has been intelligent since she was young and greatly influenced when we were kids."

They chatted for a bit.

A few minutes later.

Lan Xuewen said, "You've just arrived, so you may not be familiar with your colleagues and subordinates."

Dong Xuebing nodded slightly, "This department is quite bloated, and the waters are deep. I'm not very clear about it."

Lan Xuewen continued, "Then I'll be straightforward. I've had a lot of interactions with Department Two of the Eighth Office, so I know a bit more about it. Director Yin is relatively modest and has the kind of personality where he wants everyone to get along. I believe you've noticed that. Director Yin is known in the compound as a very kind person. But don't be fooled by his appearance. This is just how he interacts with colleagues. When handling cases, he's not someone who will trade favors easily. He's earnest, handles cases swiftly, strictly following the regulations, and is not afraid of offending people."

Dong Xuebing nodded.

Lan Xuewen continued, "Director Yin's background isn't very prominent; he's a self-made man. Of course, when I talk about background, I mainly mean his family background. Director Yin is quite close to the director of the Eighth Office. As for your colleague Zhang Dongliang, he's a cadre at the Section Chief level. Although his rank is average, his father is a local City Party secretary. As for his father's faction, it's not at the level of the central government but rather within the province. I don't know many details, so I won't elaborate. And there's Sun Zhaobang from your department, the chubby one. He's also at the Section Chief level, and someone in his family is the deputy minister of a ministry. His position is relatively weak, and I won't mention it. Then there's He Zhou among your colleagues, with the highest rank as a deputy division chief-level inspector. His background is more complicated; he's a relative of a former deputy minister-level leader in a powerful department. Although that leader has retired, their friendship and connections still exist. People from He Zhou's family also serve as directors in some departments."

Lan Xuewen spoke slowly.

Dong Xuebing listened attentively. He knew this information was critical, so he didn't miss a word and kept it all in his mind.

In the end.

Dong Xuebing asked, "What about Han Fei?"

Lan Xuewen replied, "In terms of background, she has the strongest connections within Department Two. Don't be fooled by Han Fei's usual demeanor. Her father is a cadre at the Central Organization Department, Bureau Two, the director of the local cadre bureau. He's also a Central Organization Department committee member, holding significant power. Han Fei is also an only child."

Dong Xuebing nodded heavily. He wondered how someone with Han Fei's personality could remain within the system. Now he understood. Dong Xuebing also started to grasp why Yin Cheng'an, the head of Department Two, treated these individuals with such deference. Perhaps Yin, known for his excellent temperament, was aware of their backgrounds, giving them some leeway out of respect for their elders.

This was the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, after all. There wasn't a single simple person inside.

Dong Xuebing asked, "What faction does Han Fei's father belong to?"

Lan Xuewen pondered for a moment and shook his head slowly. "It's uncertain. Her father didn't come from an aristocratic family; he climbed up gradually. And at their level, it isn't easy to discern affiliations. After all, the matters involved are too complex. I don't know much about it. They probably only have a clear understanding of themselves. Han Fei's father's relationship with our Xie family has always been average—neither particularly good nor bad. That's all I know."

Not everyone in the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection had a strong background. The members of their petition office were few, and many officials came from ordinary families, including quite a few from rural backgrounds. However, the First to Eighth Departments were highly crucial, so the people inserted there were naturally outstanding in ability or background. As a result, this situation had emerged. While many had influential backers, Lan Xuewen also knew that compared to Dong Xuebing's backing from the Xie family, the backgrounds of people like Sun Zhaobang and He Zhou were negligible. While they might be seen as second-generation officials by

ordinary people, in the eyes of the Xie family, they were just ordinary folks. Even Han Fei, with the most substantial background among them, didn't mean much in front of Xie Huilan and Dong Xuebing. This was the fundamental reason hardly anyone knew about Dong Xuebing's background after he took office—not due to ignorance but because they were not on the same level. The top leaders of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection knew about Dong Xuebing, but with their status, they wouldn't make any fuss about it.

After digesting the information for a few minutes, Dong Xuebing understood the situation. "Thank you, Old Lan."

Lan Xuewen smiled. "Let's not stand on ceremony. We'll have plenty of opportunities to interact in the future. Let's exchange phone numbers and keep in touch."

"Hehe, sure." Dong Xuebing exchanged numbers with him.

"I should get going now. You're busy," Lan Xuewen bid farewell.

Dong Xuebing politely escorted him to the office door. After Lan Xuewen left, he closed the door and returned inside. Unbeknownst to him, Department Two was a gathering place for many talented individuals. However, this didn't directly concern Dong Xuebing. Backgrounds were backgrounds, but they were all mid-level backgrounds, with little connection or conflict with the interests of the Xie family. There might not even be any interaction. The disparity in status was quite significant. Dong Xuebing was prepared to be his own "leisurely prince." He would avoid worrying about unnecessary matters and enjoy a few months of peaceful life. He now believed that this was better than anything else.

Chapter 1540: School Celebration invitation

It's three o'clock.

In his own office.

The sunlight was getting lower, casting shadows over Dong Xuebing's back. He reached back to twist the blinds, breaking the light into shards, then cupped his tea and lowered his head to look at the documents brought by the petition office. This was his first assignment, but it wasn't much. It involved several cities in a large province, and Dong Xuebing didn't have the authority to decide much. At most, he would glance through the documents, but ultimately, Director Yin made the decisions. Dong Xuebing didn't even consider offering his opinions or taking any actions. He tossed the documents onto the desk and continued sipping his tea.

At that moment, his phone rang.

Dong Xuebing calmly set down his cup, took out his phone, and glanced at it. He was slightly surprised to see that it was his teacher, Jiang Min, calling. He quickly answered.

"Teacher Jiang."

"Hello, Xuebing."

"Has your school started? No classes today?"

"No classes for the past couple of days. The school has a few days off."

"Hmm, but it's not even National Day yet. Why the break?"

Jiang Min replied softly, "Didn't I tell you last time? Our school is celebrating its 30th anniversary. The classrooms, teaching buildings, and auditorium have all been renovated. It's quite grand. The school leadership attaches great importance to it. I'm asking if you'll come tomorrow's the anniversary. Will you be joining us?"

Dong Xuebing blinked. "Tomorrow?"

Jiang Min asked, "What's the matter? Don't you have time?"

Dong Xuebing chuckled, "Haha, it's not that. I have plenty of time now."

"That's good. I thought you might be busy settling into your new job." Jiang Min chuckled.

"Not at all, not at all. Even if I were busy, I couldn't refuse your invitation, Teacher Jiang. If you've personally invited me, I must attend, even if it means going through fire and water." Dong Xuebing laughed.

Jiang Min said, "You brat, always teasing."

Dong Xuebing asked, "What time should I arrive tomorrow?"

Jiang Min pondered for a moment. "You should come early, preferably before six o'clock, because there's a school-wide assembly in the morning. Many leaders, including those from the City Education Bureau and other old graduates who are local officials or businessmen, will be attending. By the way, several of your classmates from Yao Cuis class have also been contacted by me this time. About three or four people are coming. I've applied for passes for you all. You represent the old graduates. Considering how articulate you've become lately if you want to give a speech on behalf of the old graduates, you can. Just give me a draft in advance, and I'll submit it for you. I can also help you revise it and see if it passes."

Dong Xuebing quickly declined, "No need for that, Teacher."

Jiang Min spoke earnestly, "This is a good opportunity for you. Do you know how many old graduates are vying for this chance? Now that you've entered the government as a civil servant, you need to perform well if you want to be promoted. Although our university is not prestigious or a key university, many old graduates have become leaders and officials. There will be thousands of people in the auditorium during the meeting. If you perform well, someone might notice you, which will benefit your future career."

Cough, it's unnecessary. I know you mean well. But really, I'm not interested. I'm quite shy, and if I were to go up there, my legs would start trembling. There would be so many people watching. Besides, with my level of education, even if I wrote a draft, it definitely wouldn't pass. I won't join in this hustle and bustle." Dong Xuebing was adhering to his principle of keeping a low profile. He barely spoke at work, so how could he confidently give a speech on stage?

Jiang Min's voice sounded indifferent. "If you don't want to, then forget it. I just mentioned it casually. Maybe other teachers and school leaders have already chosen someone else."

Dong Xuebing asked, "Then why should I come tomorrow?"

Jiang Min smiled, "Hehe, come early for a while. I thought I'd have you come over to help me move some things and maintain order."

"Oh, move things?" Dong Xuebing sweated a bit.

"Why? Don't you want to?" Jiang Min asked in return.

Dong Xuebing quickly assured, "No, no, absolutely not. It's such an honor to serve you, Teacher Jiang. Don't worry, I'll be there on time. I also want to see my old classmates. It's been so many years since we last contacted each other, and I miss them."

"You're quite the talker." Jiang Min chuckled.

"You secretly left last time after the trip, and I didn't even drive you home. I felt quite embarrassed about it. Are you free tonight? Let me treat you to dinner."

"At night? I'm not sure how late I'll be. It might be after seven."

"That's okay, no problem, no matter how late. I'll come pick you up in the evening."

"Or maybe we can eat at your place. I just told my kids not to wait for me for dinner tonight. Hmm, let's find a random restaurant. I'll treat you."

"You're underestimating me. Alright, it's a deal. I'll treat you."

"Hehe, let's discuss it later. I must get busy now; the banners haven't been hung yet."

"Just tell the students what to do. Don't get too busy running around. Be careful not to fall."

After hanging up the phone, the tea had gone cold. Dong Xuebing poured out the remaining tea, brewed a new cup, and then reminisced while snacking sunflower seeds. He wondered which of his old classmates would be there, but he didn't ask over the phone. He didn't want to spoil the sense of anticipation. Although Dong Xuebing's university life was even more low-key than his current self, and he didn't have many friends, he still cherished those youthful years.

Five o'clock.

The office hours ended.

Before anyone in the Second Department office area noticed, Dong Xuebing had almost timed it perfectly to push open the door, carrying his bag and files. Everyone just realized it was time to leave. Glancing at the clock, it was precisely five o'clock, not even a minute late. Everyone couldn't help but look at Dong Xuebing speechlessly. Not even a minute extra, you must miss home.

Zhang Dongliang smiled, "Director Dong, we just planned to have dinner tonight. Feifei found a great restaurant a few days ago, and the dishes are amazing."

Han Fei rolled her eyes.

Dong Xuebing smiled, "Next time, I have plans for tonight."

Zhang Dongliang nodded, "That's okay. Maybe next time."

Han Fei pouted and glanced at Dong Xuebing while He Zhou looked at him.

"Director Yin hasn't come back yet?" Dong Xuebing looked towards the open door of an office.

A deputy section-level cadre said, "He should still be in the propaganda office, maybe."

As they spoke, footsteps could be heard from outside. Shortly after, Yin Cheng'an's smiling face appeared at the door of the office area. He looked at everyone, "Oh, you're all still here."

Han Fei immediately said, "We were just about to leave, Director Yin. How about we go out for dinner tonight?"

"Haha, I'll have to check who is treating first." Yin Cheng'an joked.

The Second Division was entirely cadres, and even if they didn't mention it, based on their basic salaries, no one would have trouble paying for this meal.

Han Fei said, "You're being stingy. Okay, okay, I'll treat. I'm feeling generous tonight."

Yin Cheng'an chuckled, "I'm free tonight, too, so I'll go. Wherever you decide to eat, Director Dong, you should come too. We'll need two cars."

Dong Xuebing was about to speak.

But Han Fei quickly interjected on his behalf, "Director Dong has plans tonight."

Yin Cheng'an smiled, "Well, there's nothing we can do about it. Director Dong just returned to Beijing, so he must have a lot of things to take care of. It's okay; we'll have plenty of time."

"Director Yin." Dong Xuebing handed him the documents, "These are from the Public Complaints and Proposals, and the General Office."

"Okay." Yin Cheng'an took them and flipped through them, probably already aware of the contents. He then put the documents away. "Let's talk about this tomorrow. It's already time to go home."

Dong Xuebing added, "I might need a day off tomorrow. I have something to attend to."

Yin Cheng'an didn't hesitate, "Sure, let's count it as annual leave then."

"My annual leave quota has already been used up," Dong Xuebing explained.

"It's okay. You can make it up later when you have more annual leave," Yin Cheng'an replied.

Dong Xuebing accepted Yin's offer without any fuss.

However, when Han Fei, Sun Zhaobang, and the others heard this, they were nearly ready to bang their heads against the wall. On his first day in office, Dong Xuebing arrived over an hour late, didn't do any work, didn't communicate with anyone, spent the whole day in the office listening to music and drinking tea, and just a few seconds after it turned five o'clock, he was already pushing the door to leave. Everyone thought this new Director Dong was already quite unbelievable, but he was even more unbelievable. On his second day in office, he needed to take leave.

"What the heck! Are you here to work?"

"It's obvious you're here to retire."

"Even those soon-to-be retired officials from the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection who are in their sixties don't have such a carefree and indifferent attitude. A director-level supervisor who doesn't show a hint of ambition, we don't know how to evaluate him anymore."

Dong Xuebing left.

The office area was now only occupied by their group of old colleagues.

Han Fei didn't hold back her thoughts, "What kind of person is he?"

"Ahem." Sun Zhaobang tapped her arm gently, reminding her not to speak recklessly.

But Han Fei was somewhat rebellious, "I've never seen anyone like him. He has no sense of belonging to the team at all. He didn't even treat us to a meal on his first day of work. When we offered, he didn't even give face. He's just a higher rank. What's so great about that?"

Yin Cheng'an criticized, "Watch your words. Director Dong is just being low-key. Just because he's not as outgoing as you don't mean anything. And Director Dong is your superior. Speaking ill of him behind his back is disrespectful and makes people laugh. I'll let it go this time but won't allow it in the future."

Han Fei snorted, looking displeased.

Sun Zhaobang, He Zhou, and a few others were also uncomfortable. They had never seen someone work like Dong Xuebing before. Even in the discipline inspection department, being low-key was excessive.

The next moment, after criticizing Han Fei, Yin Cheng'an put on a smiling face again. "Haha, I'm hungry. It's not easy for Xiao Han to treat us once. Let's go, let's go eat."

"Yeah, let's go eat."

"We have enough cars, so I won't drive. Let's go in the units car."

With that, everyone dropped the topic of Dong Xuebing and left for dinner.