

PAW 1631

Chapter 1631

Afternoon. The Second and General Offices, housed in the Eighth Division, were in turmoil. Everyone was trying various methods—some were reporting the incident, while others were pleading. It was chaotic in both Offices.

"My dad?" He Zhou's words took aback Han Fei.

He Zhou nodded, saying, "If your dad helps put in a word, maybe..."

Zhang Dongliang added, "Director Yin has good connections with higher-ups. If even Director Yin's help doesn't work, maybe your father..."

He Zhou continued, "Your dad isn't like Director Yin. At least he's a higher-level leader, even if he's not in the same Office as us. He's on par with our superiors, a senior official in the Central Organization Offices. His status is different, and his words might carry more weight. But, this matter is indeed difficult. Even if your father intervenes, it might not be very effective. After all, so many people witnessed Yang Zhen being kicked by Director Dong. The implications are too significant."

Han Fei anxiously asked, "Will my dad be able to help?"

He Zhou replied, "I don't know, but it's better than just waiting."

"But my dad never gets involved in my affairs," Han Fei sighed. "Every time I get into trouble, he never helps, let alone for other people."

He Zhou reassured her, "Come on, your dad is always watching out for you."

"Forget it," Han Fei retorted. "He's always so stern and strict; he won't go to bat for Director Dong. Do you know my dad at all?"

He Zhou realized that involving Han Fei's father might not be appropriate, as it might give the impression of interfering. Unless her father had exceptional connections with the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, it wouldn't be easy for him to speak out. "You're right, I didn't consider that. Well, let's think of another solution?"

Zhang Dongliang checked the time. "It's already past 1:30. We're running out of time."

Sun Zhaobang agreed, "Many leaders have gone to meetings. They might be back and call Director Dong away!"

Han Fei stomped her foot in frustration. "I'm so anxious!"

But then, from Director Dong's office, music could be heard - lively, upbeat rock music!

Listening to music? When things were so urgent? You're still in the mood to listen to music??

Han Fei, He Zhou, and the others were speechless. They hadn't expected Director Dong to remain calm and leisurely listen to music. They guessed he might even be sipping tea and munching on melon seeds. However, on second thought, they admired Director Dong's psychological resilience. They had never seen a leader who could be so calm about things!

"No, I'm going to ask Director Yin how it's going!" While Director Dong wasn't in a hurry, Han Fei was. She was usually carefree, but she was very emotional. Director Dong had come to her aid at a critical moment, and Han Fei remembered his kindness.

Knock knock knock. Han Fei knocked on the door.

The director's office door was closed tightly.

She knocked again but got no response. So, she turned the knob and went in. The door wasn't locked, and inside, she saw Yin Cheng'an talking on the phone by the window.

Yin Cheng'an quickly spoke into the phone, "Leader, please don't just listen to one side of the story from the General Office... Yes, our Director Dong indeed collided with Yang Zhen's car, but the incident started because Yang Zhen hit Han Fei's car from our Offices first... Please... Let me explain... Also, regarding Director Dong hitting someone later, it was because the General Office initiated the physical altercation by pushing Director Dong... I understand... I know Director Dong is at fault, but the other party is also responsible... So, I think the blame shouldn't solely fall on Director Dong; it takes two to tango... Oh, you're coming back soon? Okay, I'll wait for you in your office to explain the details of the situation."

After the call ended, Yin Cheng'an sighed deeply.

Han Fei immediately asked, "Director Yin, what did the leader say?"

"Not sure yet, but they will hold Director Dong accountable. I heard several deputy directors from the Eighth Office are very angry." Yin Cheng'an didn't conceal the situation. It was only natural for the Eighth Office's leaders to be upset. The situation was grim with such a big incident and physical altercation involving Director Dong.

Han Fei quickly inquired, "What about Director Zhu?"

Zhu Weiye, Director of the Eighth Inspection Room of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection. As the top leader, he was also a senior official.

Yin Cheng'an replied, "Director Zhu might still be in the meeting room. His phone is off, so I can't reach him now. But he should be back soon, and it's hard to say." Director Zhu had always supported their Second Office, and Yin Cheng'an had a good relationship with him. However, personal relationships aside, given the gravity of the situation, even a leader couldn't simply sweep it under the rug. Yin Cheng'an knew the hope of keeping Dong Xuebing was slim. Even if they managed to keep him, some disciplinary action was unavoidable. It would significantly impact Dong Xuebing's future career prospects.

Han Fei was getting increasingly anxious.

Yin Cheng'an asked, "What is Director Dong doing?"

Han Fei exclaimed angrily, "He's in the office listening to rock music!"

Yin Cheng'an sighed.

"I'm leaving. I'm calling my dad!" Han Fei was determined not to hesitate anymore, especially since Director Dong had shown such kindness this time.

Yin Cheng'an felt it wasn't right. "Han Fei, wait a moment!"

Ignoring his advice, Han Fei left Director Dong's office and went to a corner to take out her phone.

"Xiao Fei."

"How's it going?"

"What did the leader say?"

Seeing Han Fei's silence, they understood. Director Yin's plea probably didn't have much effect, and higher-ups must have made a decision.

"I'll make a call." Han Fei said.

Seeing that she would call her father, everyone stepped away a bit.

Taking a deep breath, Han Fei quickly dialed the number, and the call connected.

"Hello, Xiao Fei." A middle aged man said. Han Fei's father, Han Zhenghe, the Director of the Second Bureau of the Cadres Offices of the Central Organization Office.

"Dad."

"What's wrong?"

"I need your help! You must help me!"

"What's the matter? Did you get into trouble again?"

"It's not my fault this time; someone bullied me!"

Han Zhenghe furrowed his brows. "I told you before, deal with the trouble you caused by yourself. If you can't handle it, then stop causing trouble everywhere!"

"Are you still my dad?" Han Fei was indignant.

Han Zhenghe shook his head. "It's precisely because I'm your father that I must educate you like this. You, this girl, always dare to pick a fight with everyone. You won't learn your lesson if you face consequences a few times. Alright, speak up, let me hear who you've angered this time."

"It's someone who provoked me!" Han Fei immediately retorted. "My newly bought car was hit by someone else. It was Yang Zhen from the General Office of our Eighth Division deputy director. Yes, I admit my parking wasn't perfect; it was slightly off; after all, I've only had my license for a short time. But Yang Zhen deliberately didn't go around my car when there was space in front. He intentionally hit my car while I was watching, even scratching my side mirror. When he got out of the car, he didn't apologize. Instead, he blamed me. A bunch of people gathered around us!"

Han Zhenghe frowned. "Are you exaggerating?"

Han Fei retorted, "What exaggeration? Everyone was there watching."

Han Zhenghe didn't like his daughter's troublemaking attitude, but if someone bullied his daughter, he wouldn't stand idly by. "Director Yin didn't intervene?"

"Director Yin and Director Chen were not around." Han Fei explained. "At that time, only Director Dong was there. But Director Dong was surprisingly considerate. He drove and hit Yang Zhen's car, then when Yang Zhen got out and confronted Director Dong, pushing him, Director Dong... he kicked Yang Zhen."

"What?" Han Zhenghe was stunned. "Your leaders got into a physical altercation?"

Han Fei responded softly, "Anyway, the situation has escalated. You need to step in and help Director Dong. Otherwise, he'll be in real trouble."

Han Zhenghe sighed. "What can I do?"

Han Fei acted coquettish. "Then I won't care, but you must help me!"

Han Zhenghe said helplessly, "What kind of leaders are they? If they want to mediate, they should do it properly. How could they resort to hitting and car accidents?" He suddenly paused, feeling a bit unacceptable. Wasn't that the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection? Leaders from the disciplinary committee should have higher moral standards than other Offices. The typical approach of leaders from the disciplinary committee usually exuded an aura of disciplinary integrity. How could a leader from there resort to physically assaulting someone over a disagreement? Even in their Offices, they didn't have such rogue leaders!

Wait a minute!

Director Dong?

Did she say Director Dong?

Han Zhenghe suddenly realized, "What's his full name?"

"What do you mean?" Han Fei asked.

"That Director Dong you mentioned, what's his full name?" Han Zhenghe inquired.

"His full name?" Han Fei blinked. "It's Dong Xuebing, the newly appointed director-level supervisor of our Second Office. Why, Dad? What's with your tone?"

"Dong Xuebing?"

So it was him!

No wonder he dared to hit someone!

Han Zhenghe fell silent for a moment. "I've been meaning to ask you these past few days, but I never got the chance. I forgot about it. So he's been transferred to your Eighth Office's Second Office? Why didn't you tell me earlier?"

Han Fei couldn't understand. "Tell you what? You never asked me. What do you mean? Do you know our Director Dong?"

"I don't know him personally, and I've never met him." Han Zhenghe sounded somewhat nostalgic. "But I've heard of him."

Han Fei was stunned. "You know him?"

Han Zhenghe confirmed, "I've only heard of him recently when he was transferred to the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection."

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Meanwhile, outside the office of the deputy director in charge.

The deputy director, who had just returned from the meeting, was followed by Zeng Ming, the director of the General Department, and Deputy Director Yang Zhen. They knocked on the door and entered.

"Director Zhou."

"Mm, you're here?"

"This is too much of bullying!"

"I've heard about the situation. Have a seat first."

"Director Zhou, just look at Xiao Yang's injury. The kick was too harsh!"

Zeng Ming came in with an angry demeanor, didn't even sit down, lifted up Yang Zhen's shirt, and pointed to the red and purple marks on his stomach to show Director Zhou.

Director Zhou glanced at it, his expression darkened, "Have you been to the hospital?"

"Not yet." Yang Zhen also made a painful expression.

"We'll go to the hospital later and get it checked."

"Thank you for your concern, leader." Yang Zhen nodded in thanks. "I will."

At this moment, Zeng Ming said to Yang Zhen, "What about the photos of the car? Show Director Zhou."

"Yeah." Yang Zhen immediately flipped through his phone and pulled out a few pictures that he had just taken. They showed the rear of his Audi A4L, which had been hit.

Director Zhou took a look and flipped through a few pages. "I understand."

Whether it was Yang Zhen's injury or the damage to the car, it wasn't particularly serious. At least Director Zhou didn't think it was serious. However, this didn't mean Director Zhou wasn't angry. The severity of this matter wasn't about Yang Zhen's injury but about the impact of the incident itself. This incident involved an intentional car collision and physical assault. The victim was a cadre, and so was the assailant. In this situation, injury assessment couldn't be used as the basis for handling.

Director Zhou put down Yang Zhen's phone. "The Second Office went a bit too far this time, right? It was that cadre named Dong Xuebing, right? I see."

Zeng Ming said indignantly, "This isn't just going too far, it's too blatant! Assaulting someone? And he's still a cadre! What kind of behavior is this? If everyone behaved like him, wouldn't it be chaotic? Such cadres should be dealt with seriously! It's a failure of management! Director Yin of the Second Division also bears responsibility!"

Director Zhou felt a bit annoyed when he heard this. He naturally understood the matters between the Second and General Office, so he interrupted Zeng Ming's words with a wave. "Alright, I will report this matter to the director. However, no matter what, Yang Zhen, you are also wrong. After all, you hit someone else's car first, and after the conflict arose, you also acted irrationally and pushed Dong Xuebing, right? Go back and reflect on yourself."

Yang Zhen could only agree.

Zeng Ming said, "But fundamentally, it's people from the Second Office..."

"I know. I will report to the higher-ups." Director Zhou waved his hand. "You all can go back. Don't worry. The General Office will be given an explanation."

Suddenly, there was another knock on the door.

Director Zhou looked up, "Come in."

Yin Cheng'an, the director of the Second Office, came in late, and when he saw that Zeng Ming had already brought Yang Zhen in, Yin Cheng'an subtly frowned. "Director Zhou."

"You're here too?" Director Zhou glanced at him, not treating him as nicely as he did Zeng Ming's group. After all, in his view, the Second Office was mainly responsible for this matter. Even if Yang Zhen was at fault first, Dong Xuebing of the Second Office handled the situation too aggressively.

Meeting with an old foe always makes the eyes red. Zeng Ming looked at him and said coldly, "Director Yin, is this how you usually instruct your subordinates?"

Don't be fooled by Yin Cheng'an's usual mild and friendly demeanor towards his subordinates. When it comes to serious matters, Yin Cheng'an can also be tough. "I should return this statement to you intact, Director Zeng," he retorted, "You hit someone else's car without even apologizing, and then you arrogantly argued with the other party. Is this how you teach your subordinates?"

"Well, your way of teaching isn't any better! Kicking people? What kind of cadres are in your department?" Zeng Ming retorted coldly.

Yin Cheng'an looked at him and said, "Then let me ask, who caused this incident? Who started the fight? Who laid hands first?"

Neither gave way, and they immediately started arguing in the deputy director's office, exchanging barbs.

Director Zhou grew impatient and slammed the table. "Enough of this bickering! Look at yourselves, go back!"

"Director Zhou," Yin Cheng'an said.

"Go back and wait for the director to handle it!" Director Zhou issued an order to leave.

Seeing Director Zhou's attitude, Yin Cheng'an also knew continuing was futile. He had no choice but to leave, feeling even more worried about Dong Xuebing.

Director Dong is in trouble this time!

Hmm, he usually seems relatively calm. How could he resort to violence?

Yin Cheng'an couldn't understand what Dong Xuebing was thinking! A normal person wouldn't resort to violence in such a situation, would they?

This is bad! We can only leave it to fate!

I wonder what kind of punishment Director Zhu will give!

On the other side, in the Second Office office area.

Han Fei was still on the phone with her father, Han Zhenghe.

When she heard her father say that he had heard of Dong Xuebing, Han Fei was also very surprised. She knew her father's rank, and the people he knew, interacted with, and talked about were high-ranking leaders. Even if their new Director, Dong Xuebing, were promoted to a high position at a young age, his level probably wouldn't be something her father would be aware of. It's a different level.

"Have you heard of him before?" Han Fei asked.

"Let's not talk about it. You wouldn't understand. Are you still at work? This isn't the place to talk on the phone. You'll understand later," Han Zhenghe said.

"What do I need to understand?" Han Fei asked anxiously.

Han Zhenghe replied calmly, "I'll tell you when there's a chance."

Han Fei couldn't wait and said quickly, "But what should we do? Director Dong stood up for me. He's too righteous. I can't just watch him get demoted!"

"Demoted?" Han Zhenghe chuckled. "That's impossible."

"Why are you laughing? How is it impossible? He hit someone!" Han Fei said in frustration.

Han Zhenghe replied calmly, "When I say it's impossible, it's impossible. Don't worry, your Director Dong will be fine."

"Can you be clear about it?" Han Fei urged. "I know Director Dong must have some background. He's achieved so much at his age. It's strange if he doesn't have any connections. But this incident has a huge impact. Even with connections, it's useless. How can he escape punishment?"

"That depends on what kind of background he has." Han Zhenghe smiled and shook his head, saying decisively, "There are some things you don't need to know yet. But let me tell you this: as far as your Director Dong is concerned, I won't dare say in areas outside of the province or city. But when it comes to the capital city and the territory of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, hmm, I'm afraid no one dares to touch him!"

Chapter 1633

On the phone.

"Why doesn't anyone dare to touch him?"

"You just need to know that no one will."

"Hey, why are you like this? You finished speaking."

"I have things to attend to here. Let's leave it at that."

"Don't hang up, wait a moment, Dad—"

Beep beep beep, Han Fei's call was cut off by Han Zhenghe. Han Fei was so angry she almost smashed her phone. What did Dong Xuebing mean by hitting a substantive director and making a big fuss about it? There may be repercussions. In her father's words, Han Fei didn't believe it. Even though her father was the director of the Second Office of the Organization Department, Han Fei's background couldn't withstand such a major incident. She felt that it wasn't just a matter of background anymore; the impact had reached a certain level, and the public pressure had reached a certain level. In her opinion, no matter how influential someone's background was, it wouldn't

matter. And honestly, she couldn't see what cards or confidence Director Dong had. On the first day, Dong Xuebing took office, Han Fei asked him about his background, but he didn't say anything. Han Fei was very curious and asked many people later, but even Yin Cheng'an, the leader of the Second Division, didn't know where Dong Xuebing came from. If his background was powerful, how could nobody know? Only her father knew some things. Han Fei couldn't understand why her father wouldn't tell her, so she had to put away her phone, feeling baffled.

Meanwhile.

Footsteps sounded as Yin Cheng'an returned.

"Director Yin."

"You're back."

"How did it go with the leaders?"

Sun Zhaobang and Zhang Dongliang approached.

Yin Cheng'an shook his head. "It didn't end well. Sigh, don't mention it. Deputy Director got angry, and Zeng Ming took Yang Zhen with him first."

Han Fei also walked over. "Is Director Dong going to be in trouble?"

Yin Cheng'an nodded. "This situation is probably troublesome."

Han Fei began to question her father's words even more. Wasn't it said that nobody would dare to touch Director Dong? But look, it's already reaching a boiling point.

He Zhou looked at her. "Xiaofei, what did your dad say?"

Yin Cheng'an said, "You don't need to call your dad. This is very troublesome. It's not easy to talk to Director Han. On the contrary—"

Han Fei was speechless. "Despite the fight, my dad said nobody would dare touch Director Dong."

"What? Nobody would dare to touch Director Dong?" He Zhou was surprised. "How could Uncle Han say that?"

Han Fei shook her head helplessly. "That's what he said. I asked him what was happening, but he didn't explain it. It's so frustrating."

Yin Cheng'an blinked his eyes. "Does your dad know Director Dong?"

"Maybe," Han Fei said uncertainly. "I'm not sure."

Zhang Dongliang interjected, "But isn't Director Dong supposed to be disciplined? Why would nobody dare to touch him?"

Han Fei felt annoyed. "That's right. Who knows what's gotten into my dad? It seems like he doesn't want to help. He's just talking nonsense."

Yin Cheng'an said, "Your dad is also in a difficult position with this matter."

Just then, a clerk walked in from outside. "Where's Director Dong?"

"Hmm, Secretary Chen," Han Fei said cautiously, "What's the matter with Director Dong?"

The person had an expressionless face. "The director has returned from the meeting. Director Zhou asked for Director Dong to come over." With an official tone and without much politeness in his speech, his expression also indicated the attitude of Deputy Director Zhou behind him, clearly showing that he was very annoyed about this incident.

Yin Cheng'an glanced at him. "Secretary Chen, who else went?"

Seeing Yin Cheng'an, Secretary Chen's tone softened slightly. "Deputy Director Yang from the General Office, Yang Zhen, was also called."

"Then I'll go with him." Yin Cheng'an wanted to help explain. He was afraid Dong Xuebing would be at a disadvantage alone.

But Secretary Chen said, "I'm afraid not. The leader said only Director Dong should go. I'm sorry, Director Yin." He paused. "Where is he?"

Yin Cheng'an remained silent for a moment, then looked at Zhang Dongliang.

Zhang Dongliang turned around, lightly knocked on Dong Xuebing's office door, and then pushed it open, saying, "Director Dong, the leader asked you to go over. It's our Eighth Division's leaders."

"Okay, got it." Dong Xuebing replied. A few seconds later, he came out. Remembering that music was still playing in the room, he couldn't help but say, "Xiaozhang, could you turn off the music for me? Oh, and I haven't saved this song yet. Could you save it for me and put it on the D drive?"

Zhang Dongliang hesitated. "Sure."

He is still concerned about whether the song is saved or not.

Seeing Dong Xuebing's indifference, Secretary Chen came to call him and was also a little dizzy. He thought, What kind of leader are you? Don't you know you're in trouble? You're quite something. Deputy Director Zhou was angry with the office, yet you act as if it's no big deal.

Secretary Chen's complexion also turned sour. "Come with me."

"Director Dong," Han Fei looked guilty, feeling she had implicated him.

But Dong Xuebing waved his hand casually and said nothing, following the secretary out.

Leaving the people from the Second Office feeling heavy-hearted. Nobody knew if Dong Xuebing would be able to come back after this.

Upstairs.

Outside the leader's office.

Dong Xuebing walked lightly with Secretary Chen in the corridor, not paying much attention. When he handled things, he always dealt with them as they came; he didn't care about the chaos caused by others. He just couldn't be bothered. As for whether things could be resolved in the end, Dong Xuebing wasn't concerned. He was fearless, so he didn't worry about how to handle situations afterward. Whatever happened happened.

They arrived.

Secretary Chen knocked on the door.

A dignified voice came from inside, "Come in."

Secretary Chen pushed the door open. "Director, Director Dong is here."

"Alright, you can go back." A middle-aged man inside waved his hand with a stern face.

Secretary Chen complied respectfully, gently closed the door, and turned to leave, leaving Dong Xuebing, who had just come in.

Dong Xuebing didn't seem uncomfortable at all. He calmly glanced at the few people in front and behind the desk. Apart from him, there were three people in the room—Director Zhu Weiye, Deputy Director Zhou Dai, both leaders of the Eighth Division, and Yang Zhen from the General Office. At this moment, Yang Zhen didn't say anything and kept his head down, seemingly listening to the warning from the two leaders. Dong Xuebing wasn't acknowledged by the two leaders who entered.

"What's the matter with you?" Zhu Weiye looked displeased as he glanced at Yang Zhen and continued his previous words, "Are you letting others laugh at our Eighth Division?"

Yang Zhen kept a low profile. In front of Director Zhu, the top leader, he dared not be rebellious. Even if it were Zeng Ming, the director of their General Office, he wouldn't have the courage. Yang Zhen could only admit, "You're right. I've realized my mistake."

Zhu Weiye said, "What mistake did you make? Speak up."

Yang Zhen replied, "I shouldn't have argued with colleagues from the Second Office."

"Just that?" Zhu Weiye seemed somewhat dissatisfied.

Zhou Dai frowned and gave him a stern look, waiting for his full admission.

Yang Zhen immediately added, "No, no, there's more. I shouldn't have accidentally touched a colleague's car from the Second Office. After scratching the car, I should have come down to apologize. We're colleagues, and there was no need for such a dispute. It was my lack of composure at the time. I will correct this in the future."

Zhou Dai nodded slightly, finally satisfied.

Zhu Weiye grunted, "It's good that you recognize your mistake. But I heard that you were the one who first got physical with the people from the Second Office."

Yang Zhen quickly said, "That's not true, Director. It was just a shove during the argument. I didn't get physical. I've been working with the Discipline Inspection Commission for many years and know where to draw the line. Besides, my car was hit, and I was quite emotional at the time, so the conversation became heated, but there was no physical altercation."

Zhou Dai objectively supported Yang Zhen and said to Zhu Weiye, "Director, Xiao Yang is right. I saw his car downstairs. The entire rear end was dented."

Afterward, Zhou Dai glanced at Dong Xuebing. It wasn't intentional to target Dong Xuebing, but Zhou Dai had never had a good impression of leaders who ignored rules. Objectively speaking, Dong Xuebing was the primary person responsible for this matter.

Dong Xuebing suddenly interjected, "Oh, I'd like to hear then who pushed my shoulder."

"We didn't ask for your opinion." Zhou Dai stared at Dong Xuebing coldly. "Just stand aside."

Seeing his expression, Dong Xuebing didn't give him any face either. "Oh, I don't even have the right to speak now? You called me here to solve the problem. Since the problem has arisen, we should clarify it. Just listening to one side of the story, I don't think this is solving the problem."

Zhou Dai was annoyed. "You hit someone, and you still have the nerve to argue?"

Dong Xuebing replied calmly, "I don't think I'm right, but I also don't think I'm wrong."

Zhou Dai had never encountered a cadre who directly challenged the leadership like this before, and he was pretty angry for a moment. Now, he finally understood why someone as calm as Yang Zhen would resort to physical violence in such a situation. This newcomer, Dong Xuebing, was infuriating to talk to.

How did he even get into the discipline inspection team?

How did the higher-ups assign them such a thuggish cadre?

Zhou Dai couldn't understand. If it were up to him, why bother discussing anything? He would have suspended Dong Xuebing right away for investigation. But Zhou Dai wasn't the top leader. He couldn't make decisions on this matter. The only person in the Eighth Division who could make decisions was Zhu Weiye. When Director Zhu returned, Zhou Dai reported the situation and proposed his solution. He wanted to suspend Dong Xuebing first to explain to everyone, but Director Zhu didn't respond immediately. Instead, he called in the two parties involved on the spot. Zhou Dai could only follow suit.

Chapter 1634

Eighth Division.

Director's office.

It's almost two o'clock in the afternoon. An hour has passed since the incident happened in the afternoon. However, there's still no conclusion on how to handle the situation. On the contrary, Dong Xuebing has just finished a conflict with Yang Zhen, and now he's arguing with Deputy Director Zhou Dai. This guy is too aggressive. Since he abandoned the idea of "keeping a low profile," Dong Xuebing has reverted to his old self, causing trouble wherever he goes. He doesn't care whether you're a colleague of the same rank or a leader.

Zhou Dai is furious.

But Dong Xuebing remains unyielding.

Seeing this, Yang Zhen, watching from the side, starts with anger. He didn't expect Dong Xuebing to still not repent at this point, but then he starts to feel happy.

Challenging the leaders.

Are you courting death?

If your attitude had been a bit better, there might have been room for maneuvering. But now, even a simple warning would likely result in suspension. Leaders also have tempers. If you don't smooth things with the leader, you'll be in trouble. Yang Zhen's only thought now is to see Dong Xuebing appropriately dealt with. Otherwise, he couldn't resolve his resentment, and he wouldn't be able to save face. There were so many people present when the incident happened. He needed to save face.

Zhou Dai couldn't stand arguing with Dong Xuebing anymore. He turned to Director Zhu and said, "Director, look."

Zhu Weiye also glances disapprovingly at Dong Xuebing and says in a deep voice, "Why are you talking to Deputy Director Zhou like that? Shouldn't you be reprimanded?"

Dong Xuebing says, "I should."

"If you should, then you should listen." Zhu Weiye says.

Dong Xuebing still needs to give face to the top leader, and Director Zhu isn't deliberately targeting him, so Dong Xuebing doesn't say anything.

"Let's deal with Yang Zhen's issue first, then we'll talk about you later." Zhu Weiye looks at Yang Zhen again. "Go back and write a self-criticism. Hand it to me by the end of today."

Yang Zhen replies, "Yes, Director, I understand."

"Alright, you can go back now." Zhu Weiye says.

Yang Zhen bids farewell and leaves, glancing at Dong Xuebing before leaving, likely feeling a bit of a sneer.

Dong Xuebing, however, doesn't even look at him.

The room falls silent. Zhu Weiye looks at Zhou Dai and says, "Old Zhou, you can go back too. Arrange the documents for the meeting. Time is tight."

Zhou Dai stands up. "Okay, I'll go arrange it."

After a while, the door closes, leaving only Dong Xuebing and Zhu Weiye in the office.

Dong Xuebing is prepared to be scolded, but Zhu Weiye surprises him by not scolding him. Instead, he points at him with exasperation and says, "You little troublemaker."

Dong Xuebing blinks. "Director Zhu."

Zhu Weiye says helplessly, "When you were transferred here, someone warned me about you. I heard you're quite a troublemaker. But I didn't take it seriously. I even thought you were already a senior cadre; what kind of trouble could you cause? Especially here, in the Discipline Inspection Commission. But in just a few days of officially starting work, you've caused such a big issue for me. If I had known about your temper, I wouldn't have arranged for you to come here. I would have pushed you to another department."

Hearing this, Dong Xuebing understands. Zhu Weiye knows about him, and he feels embarrassed for his previous firmness. "I'm sorry, Director."

Zhu Weiye criticizes him, "And you even hit someone. You're something."

Dong Xuebing explains, "But he was the one who hit me first. I have a bad temper, but I also have principles. People who know me know that."

"Stop with the act," Zhu Weiye cut him off. "Alright, go back and write a self-criticism, just like Yang Zhen. Hand it to me before the end of the workday."

Dong Xuebing asked, "Just a self-criticism?"

"What else do you expect?" Zhu Weiye said.

Dong Xuebing coughed. "I thought I'd receive some disciplinary action."

Zhu Weiye chuckled, "Fine if you want disciplinary action, I'll give it to you."

"Forget it. I was just asking," Dong Xuebing immediately replied.

"Write a thorough self-criticism until I'm satisfied," Zhu Weiye looked at him. "Also, you must take care of Yang Zhen's car repair and medical expenses on your own."

Dong Xuebing readily agreed, "Alright, I'll do as you say."

"You, young man," Zhu Weiye pointed at him again. "This is your last chance."

"Alright, I got it. You're busy. I won't disturb you anymore." Dong Xuebing didn't expect things to end so smoothly. He had prepared himself for punishment and countermeasures, but now, the outcome was satisfactory. After speaking, he left.

At the same time,

Everyone was still discussing the incident, wondering what disciplinary action would be taken against Dong Xuebing. But unexpectedly, everything seemed to calm down, and there were no more voices.

Zhou Dai was the first to receive the news and came to Zhu Weiye's office immediately, looking in disbelief. "Director, why didn't you give Dong Xuebing any disciplinary action?"

Zhu Weiye waved his hand. "It's not a big deal."

Zhou Dai was astonished. "He even hit someone, this..."

"It's just a minor dispute among colleagues. It's not that serious," Zhu Weiye said lightly. "Friction is unavoidable, especially among young people. We can't be too harsh. We should give young people a chance to change, right? Xiao Dong showed a good attitude in admitting his mistake and will compensate for the repair and related expenses. I think things should end here. Giving further punishment would make a mountain out of a molehill and make our Eighth Division look bad." Seeing that Zhou Dai was about to say something, Zhu Weiye added, "Alright, the tone is set. You can go about your business."

Hearing this, Zhou Dai said nothing more. He also felt slightly uneasy, seemingly understanding much from Zhu Weiye's attitude.

Who is this Dong Xuebing?

Even the director doesn't dare to touch him.

Zhou Dai guessed right. Zhu Weiye could discipline Dong Xuebing but genuinely found it challenging. It's not that he didn't want to, but he honestly couldn't. Regardless of being a cadre of the Discipline Inspection Commission, these intricate interpersonal relationships were inevitable in the bureaucratic system. Zhu Weiye didn't have a deep connection with the Xie family; otherwise, Dong Xuebing's mother-in-law or wife would have given him a heads-up before Dong Xuebing took office. So, while Zhu Weiye wasn't affiliated with the Xie faction, it didn't stop him from knowing Dong Xuebing's identity. Zhu Weiye was among the few people in the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection who knew Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing's father-in-law was the Secretary of the City Party Committee in Beijing.

Dong Xuebing's great-grandfather was the Secretary of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection.

One was a vice-state leader, and the other was a state leader, holding top positions.

So, as Han Fei's father, Han Zhenghe, said on the phone, in Beijing, in the territory of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, as long as Dong Xuebing didn't involve serious disciplinary violations, who would dare to touch him?

Chapter 1635

Afternoon.

At the office.

Yang Zhen was also waiting in his department for disciplinary action against Dong Xuebing from above, but it didn't come, and he grew impatient. Glancing at the clock, it had been quite some time. So, after arranging for his car to be repaired, he went to the director's office.

Knock, knock.

"Come in."

"Director Zeng."

"Xiao Yang, is your injury still hurting?"

"Thank you for your concern, Director. It's getting better."

"Well, you've been through a lot this time. Don't worry, we'll give you an explanation. The people in our department of General affairs are not ones to be bullied."

"Thank you, Director Zeng."

"By the way, why hasn't there been any news about the punishment?"

"Yeah, I'm wondering too. It's been quite a while."

"Hmm, you can have a seat first. Let me make a call."

Yang Zhen didn't sit down; he couldn't wait any longer. He hadn't even dared to leave the General Office's building because people would look at him strangely whenever he walked outside. Yang Zhen felt very embarrassed. He had been kicked, and his car needed major repairs. He would lose face if he didn't get justice in terms of punishment.

Zeng Ming called, not to the higher-ups but to Deputy Director Zhou Dai's secretary, "Hello, it's Zeng Ming. Is Deputy Director Zhou busy in his office now? Oh, okay, I just wanted to ask about the disciplinary action against Dong Xuebing. What's the current situation? It's not about compensating for the car repair costs; I'm talking about the disciplinary action. Are you sure there's been no mistake? Okay, I see. Is Deputy Director Zhou available now? Hmm, I'll come over right away. Please let him know."

After hanging up the phone, Zeng Ming's face darkened.

Yang Zhen heard it, too; his expression changed, "Director Zeng, what's going on?"

Zeng Ming slammed the table, "How would I know? Dong Xuebing wasn't given any punishment. Instead, he was just asked to compensate for the car repair costs and write a self-criticism letter."

"This..."

In his anger, Zeng Ming immediately said, "I'm going to Deputy Director Zhou's office."

It wasn't just a personal matter between Yang Zhen and Dong Xuebing; it had become a dispute between departments. It also concerned Zeng Ming's face. He couldn't ignore it, especially since he had previously lost to Yin Cheng'an as Deputy Director. Now, with the people from his department fighting against those from the General Office, Zeng Ming couldn't swallow his pride if they didn't even get an explanation.

In the Deputy Director's office.

Zeng Ming arrived a minute later.

"Director Zhou," Zeng Ming entered angrily, "what's the meaning of this? Someone got beaten up, the car was wrecked, and no action was taken?"

Zhou Dai looked at him, "Dong Xuebing has already been made to compensate Yang Zhen for his losses."

"This doesn't count as punishment. How can we justify this to everyone?"

Zhou Dai seemed to have forgotten about Dong Xuebing's confrontation with him earlier and had an apparent change of attitude, "It's just a conflict and dispute between colleagues. Director Zhu's opinion is that it's not a significant issue. If it can be resolved internally, then let it be. If it escalates, it won't look good for our Eighth Division's reputation, right? The leader has already made a decision, so this matter is settled. I know that your colleagues in the General Office may feel aggrieved, but Zeng, you have to consider the bigger picture."

Zeng Ming was taken aback, "Director Zhu has made the decision?"

"Yes," Zhou Dai said, "So you don't need to escalate it further. The outcome has been decided, and there won't be any changes. Take care of your team's emotions, and the big picture is what matters."

Zeng Ming breathed, "Director Zhou, can you give me some insight into whether Dong Xuebing is..."

After so many years of interaction, Zhou Dai's relationship with him was still good, and the General Office had always cooperated well with him. So, after giving Zeng Ming a glance, Zhou Dai said, "That new guy, Dong Xuebing, seems to be quite extraordinary. That's all I know; I'm unclear about the rest."

Zeng Ming was stunned, "Even Director Zhu..."

Zhou Dai said, "The director can't discipline him either."

"I see." Zeng Ming's anger seemed to dissipate suddenly, and he became calm.

Zhou Dai instructed, "After you return, work consoling the General Office colleagues. This matter ends here." Dong Xuebing had just quarreled with him, and Zhou Dai had no good impression of him. He would have preferred to give Dong Xuebing a heavier punishment. Zhou Dai had proposed to Director Zhu to discipline Dong Xuebing. However, Director Zhu's attitude made Zhou Dai

realize this new young man had a different background. It was not just about giving Dong Xuebing a lesson; it was beyond his control.

Zeng Ming also understood that Dong Xuebing might have a background that couldn't be easily provoked. Although he appeared ordinary and had no apparent connections, Zeng Ming, with his years of experience in the system, understood that people with backgrounds like these were often influential. It wasn't that he couldn't find out about Dong Xuebing's background; it was more likely that Dong Xuebing's was too formidable for someone like Zeng Ming or Zhou Dai to know or understand.

In the Eighth Division.

General Office.

Zeng Ming returned slowly.

Yang Zhen was the first to approach him, "Director Zeng."

The other members of the General Office also looked at him with concern. Some of them had also been involved in the altercation with the Second Department, so they also paid close attention to the situation.

Zeng Ming didn't speak but called Yang Zhen into his office alone. After closing the door, he said, "The decision has been made from above, under Director Zhu's instructions."

Yang Zhen was annoyed, "Then what about Dong Xuebing?"

"He seems to be more than just an ordinary person. Even Director Zhou doesn't know much about his situation. Only Director Zhu has some information."

Yang Zhen couldn't believe it, "How can someone who beats people and then justifies his actions not be punished?"

"I just found out myself. The situation isn't as simple as we thought," Zeng Ming also felt frustrated, but there was nothing he could do. "I heard Director Zhu doesn't want to take action against him."

"How is that possible?" Yang Zhen exclaimed.

"Probably just like that," sighed Zeng Ming.

Zeng Ming quickly grasped the situation. Even though he was furious, he accepted it. He knew he would settle the score later; it wasn't too late. After all, in the bureaucratic realm, there were hidden dragons and crouching tigers, and some individuals with powerful backgrounds were not to be trifled with. But Zeng Ming understood that revenge could wait. However, Yang Zhen couldn't accept it. He was younger and not as mature as Zeng Ming.

Yang Zhen was about to explode with anger. After a perfunctory response to Zeng Ming, he left the office. Faced with anxious inquiries from his colleagues, Yang Zhen remained silent. He left the General Office and reached the end of the corridor, where he pulled out his phone and flipped through his contacts from top to bottom.

Director Liu...

Secretary Zheng...

Uncle Lu...

After searching for a while, Yang Zhen found the contact of the highest-ranking deputy minister of a ministry. Of course, this wasn't someone he could usually contact. This deputy minister had some acquaintance with Yang Zhen's father. They were somewhat familiar. Initially, Yang Zhen felt hesitant about directly contacting him, at least he should inform his father first. But Yang Zhen had suffered too much from Dong Xuebing's antics. He felt embarrassed to let his family know. He didn't even know how to broach the subject. So, regardless of appropriateness, he decided not to care. He was in a desperate situation and directly dialed the number. Ring... ring... After four or five rings, the call was answered.

"Hello, Xiao Zhen?" came the voice of an old man from the other end.

"Uncle Fang, it's me," Yang Zhen immediately responded.

"Is something wrong? Your dad invited me for dinner today. I might be busy," the old man chuckled.

"No, Uncle Fang, it's not that. I—I was beaten up, and it's related to my work unit," Yang Zhen explained hurriedly.

"What happened?" the old man asked, his tone serious. "Take your time and explain. Don't rush."

"It's like this," Yang Zhen felt extremely wronged. He poured out his grievances to his father's old friend without reservation. "Uncle Fang, you have to help me resolve this."

"That's outrageous!" the old man was also angered upon hearing the story. "Have you told your dad?"

"No, I called you first," Yang Zhen said. "It's beyond unfair."

"It's indeed unacceptable. He not only crashed into your car but also resorted to violence. Is this still the Disciplinary Commission?" The old man was displeased. "What did your leaders say?"

"They didn't punish him; they just asked him to compensate for the damages," Yang Zhen replied.

"No punishment?" the old man was surprised.

"No, just compensation and a written self-criticism," Yang Zhen said.

The old man pondered for a moment. "It shouldn't be like this. By the way, what's the name of that person?"

"His name is Dong Xuebing. He's a cadre transferred here just last month," Yang Zhen answered.

At the mention of the name, the old man fell silent for a moment. "Dong Xuebing... Is he an ordinary-looking young man in his mid-twenties?"

Yang Zhen was taken aback. "Yes, do you know him?"

The old man remained silent for a while longer before sighing. "I don't know how he ended up in your unit. But I've heard of him. Xiao Zhen, I'm sorry, but I can do nothing about this."

"How come, Uncle?" Yang Zhen became anxious. "Some things I can't discuss with you. But Dong Xuebing isn't someone to be trifled with. Try to avoid him as much as possible. If you push him too hard, he's capable of anything. And in Beijing, very few dare to mess with him. Remember what your Uncle Fang said. Let it go."

Chapter 1636

"Uncle Fang,"

"Just endure it for now until things calm down."

"What background does Dong Xuebing have?"

"I can't tell you everything, but I know more about him than others. Even if he doesn't have a background, I still wouldn't advise you to provoke him. This person is a lunatic; you can't use common sense or institutional rules to measure or constrain him. He's capable of anything, and in Beijing, few people dare to mess with him. Remember what I'm saying; it's not worth it."

"But he..."

"I suggest you let it go."

After a few words, the call ended.

Yang Zhen put away his phone, his face turning darker. He couldn't doubt Uncle Fang's words if he had doubted what Zeng Ming had said earlier. Even leaders from other departments outside the disciplinary committee knew about a junior cadre like Dong Xuebing. This indicated Dong Xuebing's status was unusual. Yang Zhen thought about making more calls for help, but in the end, he clenched his fists and didn't dial another number. Yang Zhen knew he was outmatched this time. Even someone like Uncle Fang, from a higher level, didn't want to antagonize Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing's background was stronger than his.

The Second Office was stronger than the General Office and Dong Xuebing's rank was about the same as his. Under these circumstances, how could Yang Zhen compete with Dong Xuebing? He couldn't.

The blow from Uncle Fang's words had already calmed Yang Zhen down.

Meanwhile...

The news spread throughout the Eighth Division and other disciplinary inspection offices.

Everyone waited to see what punishment Dong Xuebing would receive. But in the end, all they got was a written self-criticism and compensation. Many were dumbfounded.

How could this be happening?

The upper management seemed to be too biased.

With such a severe incident, not even an administrative penalty like docking a few months' pay was given.

Many astute individuals felt a chill in their hearts. Seeing Zeng Ming and Yang Zhen's lack of reaction in the General Office, they became even more convinced. They didn't need to ask; it was clear that Dong Xuebing had some undisclosed background. Perhaps he had a close relationship with the leader, Zhu Weiye, which allowed him to escape it. Or maybe Dong Xuebing's background was so significant that even Zhu Weiye couldn't punish him. These were the only two possible explanations.

It was truly astonishing.

This incident left everyone dumbfounded.

Firstly, such a significant matter was suppressed, and people found it hard to believe. Secondly, Dong Xuebing was incredibly low-key. Many hadn't even heard of him. The fact that such a person had such a significant background was astonishing.

Indeed, there were hidden dragons and crouching tigers.

It wasn't surprising at all. To become a junior cadre at such a young age and hold such an important position in the Eighth Division of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, Dong Xuebing had to be extraordinary.

Yang Zhen was outmatched.

He had hit a steel plate.

Everyone began discussing the matter.

On the other hand...

After leaving Director Zhu's office, Dong Xuebing didn't return to the Second Office. Instead, he drove his beat-up Xia Li straight out of the unit and into a small bank in a nearby alley. Despite not having an appointment, the bank had excess funds that day, so they readily withdrew a hundred thousand RMB for Dong Xuebing. In his view, this sum was enough to cover the car repairs and medical expenses. With the money in hand, he drove back. Dong Xuebing doesn't care about this amount of money.

Not to mention a hundred thousand. He wouldn't even blink at one million.

To Dong Xuebing, whether he compensates or not doesn't matter. He cares about his prestige, his reputation, and his principles. The fact that the leadership didn't punish him already satisfied Dong Xuebing greatly. He had a very fulfilling and enjoyable day.

Still, he couldn't keep a low profile.

Look, how exciting life is like this.

Initially feeling bored in the morning, Dong Xuebing suddenly felt strong and motivated after this incident. It felt extremely refreshing.

He's just that kind of person.

He has to find something to do; otherwise, he feels uncomfortable.

Just then, the phone rang incessantly.

Taking it out and checking, it was his mother-in-law calling.

Dong Xuebing cleared his throat and cautiously answered, "Mom, are you looking for me?"

On the other hand, Han Jing is speechless. "How did you manage to stir up trouble again?"

Dong Xuebing feigned ignorance, "What trouble did I cause?"

"What's going on at your workplace? You've hit someone and crashed your car," Mdm. Han knew.

Dong Xuebing coughed, "Well, Mom, who's reporting this to you?"

"It doesn't matter who's reporting it. Just tell me if it's true," Han Jing said.

Dong Xuebing smiled wryly, "Yes, it's true, but I was provoked, Mom. You know me; I don't like to cause trouble."

"You're still the same," Han Jing said.

"Well," Dong Xuebing sighed, "I know you've always advised me to keep a low profile, but I can't just take it when someone bullies me. If I did, it would be embarrassing for you and Dad. Grandpa definitely wouldn't stand for it either. So, after carefully considering it for a long time, I decided to retaliate. The other party provoked this matter; he was the one who didn't give me face."

Han Jing criticized, "You're still not admitting your mistakes. I'll pass the phone to your dad and let him talk to you."

Dong Xuebing was startled, "Mom, don't, please. There's no need to tell Dad about this; it's not that big of a deal. I know I was wrong, and I'll change in the future." Dong Xuebing always had a bit of psychological awe towards Xie Guobang, his father-in-law. He could do nothing; it was just the way it was with his father-in-law.

He exasperated Han Jing. "So, you think I'm easy to talk to?"

Dong Xuebing quickly said, "No, it's because I know you care about me."

"It's just you and your smooth talk," she chuckled. "Your dad doesn't care about you?"

"No, cough cough, my dad cares about me too."

"Alright, I don't want to talk to you anymore. I knew you had this bad temper all along, and it'll never change in your lifetime. Just be careful from now on."

"Okay, Mom, I got it. I'll be careful."

Chapter 1637

At the office.

Around four in the afternoon.

Dong Xuebing leisurely returned in his dilapidated Xia Li, parking the car downstairs. However, he didn't rush upstairs. Instead, he casually took a piece of paper and a pen from his bag and hastily wrote a self-criticism letter. The words were full of remorse and promise to improve in the future, unite with colleagues, maintain harmony, and so on. In reality, he didn't take it seriously at all. After finishing writing, he reread it, was satisfied, and then got out of the car with the items.

Upstairs.

Dong Xuebing first went to Director Zhu Weiye's office in the Eighth Division, handed over the self-criticism letter for review, and settled the compensation for repair and medical expenses.

He gave seventy thousand.

Not too expensive.

After finishing these tasks, Dong Xuebing finally returned to his own office.

In the office area.

As soon as Dong Xuebing entered, it caused a commotion.

"Oh, Director Dong!" Zhang Dongliang exclaimed.

Han Fei also stood up from her chair in surprise. "You're back."

Dong Xuebing nodded as usual without saying a word. He just wanted to go to his office. It was almost time to leave work, and he considered watching a movie. In the morning, Dong Xuebing watched movies with a sense of boredom and monotony, feeling uninterested no matter what he watched; now, after going through this ordeal, he felt pretty fulfilled and wanted to relax properly.

However, Han Fei and the others didn't let Dong Xuebing go back this time. Instead, they stopped and bombarded him with questions, obviously having heard about the incident.

"The leaders talked to you."

"Why wasn't there any punishment?"

"How much did you compensate, Director Dong?"

"Does this have any impact on you?"

Dong Xuebing didn't want to dwell on it too much. He simply waved his hand and said, "It's nothing."

At this moment, Yin Cheng'an also came out. "Director Dong, has everything been resolved?"

Dong Xuebing couldn't ignore the leader's words, so he just nodded and said, "It's resolved. I wrote a letter of self-criticism and gave it to Director Zhu. The compensation matter has been settled, too. I gave seventy thousand to the General Office. They should be enough for the car repair. The leader said nothing afterward, so there's nothing to worry about."

Yin Cheng'an nodded. "That's good, that's good."

He Zhou said, "We were worried you might get punished. We thought the leader might have to give you a disciplinary action."

"It's fine," Dong Xuebing said casually. "It's just a minor dispute among colleagues."

Yin Cheng'an smiled. "Well, there's no more work left. You've been busy today. Go home and rest. It's almost time to get off work."

Dong Xuebing said, "Alright, call me if there's any work."

"Don't go yet," Han Fei interjected, blocking his way and stuttering for a moment before saying, "Director Dong, thank you today."

Dong Xuebing asked, "What are you thanking me for?"

Han Fei said, "Anyway, thanks to you for standing up for me."

Dong Xuebing responded indifferently, "I just couldn't stand Yang Zhen. It has nothing to do with you."

"How does it have nothing to do with me? Your tough words won't help. Anyway, I remember it. If you need anything in the future, I'll be there for you." Han Fei patted her chest like a young man,

making Dong Xuebing and Yin Cheng'an chuckle. "Oh right, you've already paid the seventy thousand." Dong Xuebing just nodded. "I did."

Han Fei anxiously said, "But that's not acceptable. How can I let you pay alone? This whole thing started because of me. It's my responsibility. At the very least, I should pay half." After some calculations, Han Fei realized she didn't have much money left. Eventually, her face reddened, and she coughed, "I've been spending quite a lot lately, and I don't have that much left. So, I'll give you twenty thousand for now, and I'll pay you the rest later. I'll need a few months' salary to cover it."

No one else said anything.

Dong Xuebing looked at her and said, "Forget it."

"That won't do. I'll pay half," Han Fei insisted.

Dong Xuebing replied, "I was the one who crashed into him and fought with him. It has nothing to do with you at all. Why should I take your money? Just focus on your work."

Han Fei glared, "You're just looking down on me."

Dong Xuebing sighed, "The thing is, I don't need your money. It's just seventy thousand. I can handle it."

Han Fei pouted, "Your monthly salary isn't much higher than mine. You're still young and only worked for a few years. Seventy thousand is still a small amount."

Others and society might consider them, civil servants and officials, as wealthy. But only they knew that their salaries, although slightly higher than average, were not significantly so. Moreover, they had high expenses for socializing. They were not as well off as those high-ranking officials in private enterprises. Han Fei was a typical member of the 'living from paycheck to paycheck' group. According to her understanding, Sun Zhaobang and Zhang Dongliang weren't much different from her. It wouldn't exceed three thousand even if they had some monthly savings.

With rising prices and high housing costs, they had mortgages, living expenses, and raising children. Money was needed everywhere. Nowadays, money is not the same as before; it isn't as durable. Just one outing could exhaust it. Everyone knew that Dong Xuebing had just had a son. The child was young, so there were more expenses. And looking at the old, second-hand Xia Li he had been driving to work since he started working, everyone's impression was that Dong Xuebing, who had only been working for a few years, definitely wasn't wealthy. Have you ever seen a Director Chief level official from the Discipline Inspection Commission driving a nearly scrapped Xia Li to and from work daily? At the very least, they would drive a car worth over one hundred thousand or even a mainstream car worth over two hundred thousand. Even Yang Zhen drove a car worth over four hundred thousand.

He Zhou blinked, "How about we split it? I'll chip in, too. After all, it's an issue for our second division. The conflict started because of us."

Sun Zhaobang agreed, "Yes, everyone should chip in."

Seventy thousand yuan, even if several people shared it, it wasn't much for each person. They could afford it.

But how could Dong Xuebing let them pay? He was very concerned about his reputation. "Alright, I appreciate your kindness, but this has nothing to do with you guys. Don't worry about it. I've already paid the money, and that's the end of it. Why would I need your money?" Just seventy thousand yuan, Dong Xuebing would find it beneath him to spend that little. Why bother?

Han Fei didn't agree, "But..."

"No buts, let's leave it at that," Dong Xuebing said decisively.

Seeing Director Dong's firmness, Han Fei didn't say anything more. She knew her wallet wasn't fat and couldn't ask her parents for money. "Then, then, I insist on treating you to dinner tonight. You can't refuse this. Since you took office, we've often invited you out for meals, but you've never come. You're always busy and always have something to do. This time, it's not negotiable. I must treat you. If you don't come, you'll be disrespecting me. Director Dong, you've been so considerate this time, so I must show my appreciation."

Sun Zhaobang also said, "Yes, Director Dong, you've been in the office for a while now, but we haven't had a proper meal together yet. Xiao Fei says so, too, right?"

Dong Xuebing thought about it. Indeed, he had been too low-key and not very united with the masses since he took office. He hadn't paid much attention to these relationships. Now, he couldn't remain low-key anymore and didn't care much. He looked at Han Fei and said, "Alright, but how can I let you treat? It's my first official dinner since taking office. I should be the host."

Han Fei exclaimed, "I insist on treating!"

Dong Xuebing smiled, "Then I won't go."

"Oh, why are you like this?" Han Fei sighed, "Alright, this time you treat, and next time I'll treat. No one else can compete with me."

Dong Xuebing looked at Yin Cheng'an, "Director Yin, would you honor us with your presence tonight?"

Yin Cheng'an chuckled, "What's so honorable about it? If there's a dinner, I'll go. My spouse has something to do tonight and won't return until late. I was just wondering what to do for dinner."

Dong Xuebing said, "Then where should we eat? I'm not familiar with any good restaurants nearby."

Having just paid out seventy thousand yuan, Yin Cheng'an probably felt sorry for him. He suggested, "Hey, why spend that money? Dong Xuebing, I heard your spouse isn't in Beijing. How about we go to your place and buy some groceries? We can cook a lot and eat comfortably, right?"

Han Fei clapped her hands, "Right, I'll cook for you guys."

He Zhou chuckled, "I can make tomato and scrambled eggs. That's the only dish I know."

Dong Xuebing hesitated for a moment, "Go to my place?"

Yin Cheng'an looked at him, "If it's inconvenient, then..."

"Not really." Dong Xuebing pondered momentarily and said, "Alright, it's settled. My place is a bit far, near the Third Ring Road West. It'll probably take about half an hour to drive there."

"That's fine," Yin Cheng'an said.

"Alright," Dong Xuebing said, "I'll leave early to buy groceries."

Zhang Dongliang volunteered, "No, I'll go. I'll buy groceries and wait for you guys at the door. There's a supermarket nearby, very convenient." This kind of thing certainly couldn't let the leader do it personally. He had the lowest rank in the Second Office, so naturally, he would do it.

With everything settled, dinner was arranged.

Dong Xuebing and Yin Cheng'an each returned to their offices.

Outside, Han Fei and Sun Zhaobang started discussing in low voices again.

"Do you think Director Dong has such a big background?" Han Fei asked.

"Definitely; otherwise, why wouldn't he have received any administrative punishment from above?" He Zhou said.

"But he doesn't look like it. And why haven't I heard of him among the second-generation officials in Beijing? I basically know all of them," Han Fei said, her status not ordinary either.

He Zhou said casually, "Sometimes, the bigger someone's background is, the less you'll hear about it. And your dad knows him, doesn't he? If your dad can recognize him, he must be someone special."

Han Fei was extremely curious. "I'll ask my dad again later. He won't tell me anything. Really, why does everything have to be so mysterious?"

Chapter 1638

Afternoon.

The office hours were over.

Dong Xuebing and Yin Cheng'an walked ahead downstairs while Han Fei, He Zhou, Sun Zhaobang, and others followed behind, chatting and laughing as they reached the ground floor.

"Which car should we take?"

"Probably six or seven of us."

"Director Chen won't be able to make it, so it's just us."

"Then two cars should be enough."

"But we'll need to return from the West Third Ring later. Will it be enough?"

"No problem. Since we all live in the staff quarters, the drivers will drop off whoever."

"Sounds good. Let's go."

"Dong Liang called. He's waiting at the entrance with all the groceries."

The Second Office staff members boarded Han Fei's and He Zhou's car one after the other, all in high spirits. It was a satisfying day for them.

Dong Xuebing was the last to get into the car.

Before he got in, many clerks and cadres leaving work couldn't help but glance at him. Some even whispered to each other.

"That's Director Dong from the Second Office."

"That's him? I couldn't tell."

"Indeed, he's making a name for himself this time."

"Not just making a name. It seems he has quite a powerful background."

"Absolutely. I heard people from the General Office are all frowning."

"This all started because Deputy Director Yang didn't show any restraint. It serves him right."

As the car drove out of the compound, many people outside pointed and whispered about them.

The Second Office staff saw it and felt quite proud. With Director Dong's support, they finally put the General Affairs Office in their place.

Outside, Zhang Dongliang was waiting with bags of groceries. After the car arrived, he drove towards the West Mountain.

On the way.

Dong Xuebing was in the car with Yin Cheng'an and Han Fei.

Yin Cheng'an smiled and turned to Dong Xuebing. "Xuebing, we have quite a few people. Is your place big enough?" Six or seven people. A normal one-bedroom apartment couldn't fit them.

"It's big enough," Dong Xuebing replied.

"Alright, that's good. You don't live in the staff quarters anymore?" Yin Cheng'an asked.

Dong Xuebing nodded, "I still feel more comfortable at home, so I moved back."

Driving the car, Han Fei chuckled, "We're all hungry. Our stomachs are growling."

Dong Xuebing smiled, "I'll cook later. I'm quite good at it."

"Oh, Director Dong can cook too?" In surprise, Yin Cheng'an glanced at him and laughed, "Then we must taste your cooking tonight."

Dong Xuebing said, "No problem."

Han Fei hurriedly said, "I said I'd cook. Director Dong, don't steal my thunder."

Dong Xuebing chuckled, "Today, I'm the host. You can show off next time."

Amidst the chatter, they arrived at the West Third Ring. Han Fei slowed down the car because she wasn't familiar with the area.

"Where is it?" Han Fei asked.

He Zhou's car was following behind them.

Dong Xuebing looked to the left and pointed in a direction. "Over there, see the gate of that residential complex? Go in and turn right."

"Got it."

The car soon entered a high-end residential complex. The location was excellent, and the construction was good. A standard two-bedroom apartment here would cost at least four or five

million RMB. Han Fei, Yin Cheng'an, and the others were surprised that Dong Xuebing lived in such a high-end community. It wouldn't be cheap even if it were just a small one-bedroom apartment. They couldn't understand why Dong Xuebing drove a second-hand Xia Li to work.

Just as Han Fei was about to drive towards the distant towers, Dong Xuebing exclaimed and pointed to the right. "Ah!"

"To the right?"

"Yes, turn right."

"That's the villa area."

"I know. Turn right. It's the first one."

Han Fei was taken aback for a moment before she understood. "Ah, you live in a villa?"

Yin Cheng'an was also very surprised. If they didn't know Dong Xuebing, they might not have been so astonished by his residence. But Dong Xuebing drove a beat-up Xia Li every day. The contrast was too great. It was unheard of for someone to live in a villa and still drive such a car.

The car stopped.

Everyone got out of the car, astonished.

Zhang Dongliang and the others behind them were still unaware and walked up, asking, "Is this Director Dong's house?"

Han Fei glanced at the villa and nodded dazedly. "Uh, Director Dong said it's here."

Seeing Dong Xuebing go up to open the door, everyone took a sharp breath. This villa had three floors and was in a prime location. It must be worth millions now if not tens of millions. Even some company bosses couldn't afford to live here.

The door opened.

Dong Xuebing was puzzled.

"What's wrong, Director Dong?" He Zhou asked from behind.

"There's someone inside." Dong Xuebing blinked and invited everyone in.

As they entered, they saw that the villa was lit up, and people were talking inside.

It seemed that the people inside also heard the noise outside. A flat-chested beauty suddenly pushed the door open and stepped out. When she saw Dong Xuebing, she was stunned. "Xuebing?"

Dong Xuebing exclaimed, "Sister Su, what are you doing here?"

Su Jia, Yang Zhaode's niece, was now considered Dong Xuebing's sister.

Su Jia smiled and walked up. "We're having a class reunion. We couldn't find a place, so Aunt Luan gave me the keys. She said you weren't coming, so let me use it casually. Here we are. I was going to let you know, but I knew you had just been transferred and were busy, so I didn't bother you."

Dong Xuebing understood. "Is Mom and Uncle Yang doing well? I haven't seen them in ages."

"They're doing fine." Su Jia glanced at the people behind him. "You've brought colleagues for dinner. I won't stay. I'll tell my friends to go somewhere else."

Dong Xuebing hurriedly said, "No, that won't do."

Yin Cheng'an also stepped forward. "There is no need to trouble yourself. If it's not possible, come to my place."

Dong Xuebing introduced everyone, "This is my sister, Su Jia."

Su Jia also greeted everyone with a smile. She knew that the people Dong Xuebing could interact with now must have quite a high level, so she didn't neglect anyone.

Han Fei asked, "Then what should we do?"

Su Jia told Dong Xuebing, "Brother, I've caused you trouble. Look at the commotion. I think I should..." She felt a little embarrassed.

Dong Xuebing smiled, "No, you can't be polite with me. Your classmates are my classmates, too. I must entertain them properly. You all go ahead and eat. We'll find another place."

Su Jia said, "But..."

"It's okay. Don't worry about it," Dong Xuebing said.

Chapter 1639

Evening.

Villa.

"Xiao Bing."

"Just leave it like this, Sister Su."

"You came all the way, we..."

"Oh, don't be so polite, go and accompany your classmates."

"Otherwise, I'll go to the backyard with my friends, and you guys will stay in the villa."

"Come on, I still have space over there, and it's not far to drive."

Su Jia felt it was inappropriate, but Dong Xuebing insisted and pushed her inside. If Su Jia didn't leave, Dong Xuebing would push her by force. Accidentally, his hand slipped, and he touched Su Jia's chest. Even though Su Jia was known for being flat-chested, there was still something there. Dong Xuebing felt it distinctly, but luckily, no one else saw it as everyone was busy looking at the villa.

Dong Xuebing coughed awkwardly and whispered, "My bad."

"Fidgety." Su Jia gave him a sideways glance. "Alright, you go back and entertain your colleagues and superiors. I won't bother you."

Dong Xuebing nodded, "There's a car in the garage—my Range Rover and Huilan's Porsche. Huilan went south, so the car hasn't been used, so feel free to use them. The spare keys are in the living room drawer, which is unlocked. Oh, there's also alcohol in the study upstairs. Help yourselves."

"Okay, got it," Su Jia smiled.

"And if you can't find something, call me."

"Where are you going tonight, and what time should we leave?" Su Jia asked.

"I'm not returning tonight, and I hardly stay here anyway. Have fun with your friends, and let them stay if needed. There are plenty of rooms, so a dozen people can fit easily. But please, except for the master bedroom, don't let anyone else stay there."

"Why can I stay there?" Su Jia laughed.

"You're my sister," Dong Xuebing chuckled.

Su Jia glanced at him. "Alright, thanks for this."

"There's no need to thank me; it's not a big deal. I don't come here often anyway, and I give the keys to my mom. Feel free to come whenever you want."

"Alright, hehe." Su Jia chuckled. "You go on, I won't keep you. Say hi to your colleagues."

Watching Su Jia enter the villa, Dong Xuebing walked back. Finding that everyone had left, he saw them heading towards the backyard across the lawn.

"Wow, there's even a swimming pool!" Han Fei exclaimed in amazement.

He Zhou and Sun Zhaobang were also surprised; the villa was too luxurious.

"Our Director Dong knows how to enjoy life," Yin Cheng'an nodded in approval.

Since they were already there, Dong Xuebing didn't rush to leave. He accompanied everyone for a walk around the backyard, knowing they wouldn't disturb the party inside the villa.

Ring ring, his phone rang.

Seeing it was his mom calling, Dong Xuebing stepped outside to answer.

Just then, Yin Cheng'an said, "Alright, Xiao Han, stop making a fuss. Let's go."

Han Fei turned back while walking. "If I had a villa like this to retire in, it would be worth it for a lifetime."

Sun Zhaobang chuckled, "It's worth tens of million. Selling all of your bags wouldn't be enough to buy it." Realizing he misspoke, he hurriedly added, "Of course, not including Director Yin."

Yin Cheng'an laughed, "Alright, I can't afford it either."

Outside.

"Dong Xuebing answered the phone, 'Mom.'"

"Luan Xiaoping said, 'Why did you go to the villa today?'"

"'Oh, I just invited some colleagues for dinner. Did Sister Su tell you?' Dong Xuebing said, 'Sister Su said she would make space for me, but I didn't let her.'"

"Mom hummed, 'Your sister Su came back from overseas training not long ago, both Yunxuan and I were busy, and she helped take care of the kids for several days. She was exhausted. So, when Old

Yang said your sister Su wanted to go to Beijing for a class reunion, I gave her the keys, without asking you.'

Dong Xuebing laughed, "It was originally a house for you, no need to ask me. And recently, I bought another set of houses, and I moved in early."

Mom was stunned, "You bought another house?"

"Haha, yeah,' Dong Xuebing was quite happy.

"You bought a house near the Fourth Ring Road and moved out of the family compound. Why are you spending money randomly?" Mom complained.

"This isn't random spending. That place, even if you have money, you can't buy it" Dong Xuebing chuckled. "I'm keeping it a secret for now. When you come to Beijing, I'll take you there. I'm sure you'll like it." Dong Xuebing was in an excellent mood today, mainly because crashing that Audi A4 felt so satisfying. It finally released the pent-up frustration in his heart. When he saw the leaders and colleagues coming out, Dong Xuebing hung up the phone.

"Director Yin," Dong Xuebing approached.

Yin Cheng'an slowly said, "Where shall we eat?"

Dong Xuebing felt embarrassed, "I'm sorry today. If I had known my sister was coming, I wouldn't have come. It made everyone come here for nothing. It's mainly because I don't usually stay here; the villa has been empty, so when my sister came, she didn't tell me, thinking I didn't need the house."

"Yin Cheng'an smiled, 'It's okay."

Han Fei was curious, "Hmm, you don't even live in such a nice villa. Where do you usually live? How come I heard you moved out of the family compound?"

Dong Xuebing said, "I live near Houhai now."

Zhang Dongliang blinked, "Houhai isn't far from our unit and the family compound."

Sun Zhaobang was a little surprised. The house prices in Houhai are even higher than here. One is outside the Third Ring Road, and the other is inside the Second Ring Road, with two or three times higher house prices.

Dong Xuebing nodded, "I should have gone there directly. It's closer. But I just moved in and haven't settled in properly, so..."

Han Fei asked, "So, now?"

"Let's go to Houhai," Dong Xuebing looked at Yin Cheng'an.

Yin Cheng'an said, "If the place isn't enough, we can go to the family compound."

Dong Xuebing smiled, "No need, there's enough space."

Yin Cheng'an didn't stand on ceremony and nodded, "Okay, you're the host today. It's your call. Let's go; it's getting late."

Ten minutes.

Half an hour.

The cars retraced their route.

Looking at the time, it was already past seven in the evening, and it was getting dark.

On the way, everyone in Dong Xuebing's car didn't say much, but rather chatted casually. However, in He Zhou's car behind, several people were curiously discussing Dong Xuebing's situation.

"Director Dong's father passed away, right?"

"I heard that too, and his mother seems to be an ordinary teacher."

"It's strange, Director Dong comes from an ordinary family, how can he be so wealthy that he can afford a villa outside the Third Ring Road?"

"And he also has a background, I wonder..."

"Hmm, is the money for buying the villa..."

"Let's not bring up work-related matters at this time."

"Director Dong dares to bring us here, so the money must be fine. Otherwise, Director Dong would be sick if his money is dirty. He brings a group of discipline inspection officials to the villa. Where can you find such a thing? Besides, property disclosure in the discipline inspection commission is now the strictest. It's our discipline inspection commission that leads all departments in property disclosure. I heard Director Dong used to work in the discipline inspection, and since this transfer went smoothly, it must have passed the asset investigation. The villa should also be registered. If there were any issues, it would have been mentioned. It's clean."

"Sigh, I really can't figure out Director Dong."

"Yeah, he's younger than us but has everything."

"The most remarkable thing is Director Dong's temperament. It suits my taste. That bump this afternoon was so brilliant. If others encountered such a thing, they might also think about hitting back, but it's just a thought. Director Dong did it."

"And he didn't even get any punishment in the end."

"That's right. That's his ability. Otherwise, how could Director Dong become a leading cadre at such a young age? He must have something extraordinary."

Houhai.

They arrived.

"Turn left here."

"This alley or the next one?"

"This one, yes, keep going. Park after fifty meters."

"It seems like there are no parking spots inside. Shall we park here?"

"Okay, let's park here. There are plenty of cars inside anyway."

Dong Xuebing directed Han Fei to park the car. Behind them, He Zhou's car also parked. Everyone got out of the car.

"Hey, Xiao Dong is back," a woman sitting at the door said.

Dong Xuebing greeted her with a smile. "Yeah, Auntie Sun, I'm off work, returning to have dinner with colleagues."

After that incident, Dong Xuebing had a good relationship with the people in the alley. Many passing people greeted him.

They walked forward.

Han Fei asked curiously, "Do you like living in the alley?"

He Zhou and Sun Zhaobang also didn't understand why Dong Xuebing, with a lovely villa, insisted on living in the alley. Although the environment here was good, the houses were tiny. The relatively spacious rooms in the quadrangle courtyard couldn't exceed forty square meters. It must be too crowded.

Dong Xuebing said, "Yeah, I grew up in this alley since I was a kid. I like the environment and atmosphere here. Please, this way."

They arrived at a quadrangle courtyard.

Dong Xuebing stood at the door, opened the door with the key, and stepped aside to let everyone in. He was the last one to close the courtyard gate.

Han Fei didn't understand. "How can you lock the door from the outside when people are inside?"

Sun Zhaobang checked his watch. "Yeah, it's already after work hours, but they haven't returned yet."

After turning a corner, everyone arrived at the spacious quadrangle courtyard. Their eyes lit up. They could see that the layout was excellent, and the area was larger than they had imagined. This courtyard was probably the best in the entire alley.

Holding the food, Han Fei looked around and didn't know where to go. He couldn't help asking, "Director Dong, which room is yours?"

Dong Xuebing nodded and gestured with his hand in a circle. "They're all my home. Feel free to sit anywhere, either inside the house or out in the courtyard."

"It's all your home? This entire quadrangle courtyard belongs to you?" Han Fei, He Zhou, and Sun Zhaobang were all surprised to hear this.

Chapter 1640

Evening.

Around seven o'clock.

Inside the quadrangle courtyard.

Dong Xuebing's statement, "This is all my home," left everyone, including Yin Cheng'an, dumbfounded for a moment and unable to react.

Dong Xuebing called out, "Please, make yourselves comfortable."

Han Fei was dumbfounded, "This is a standalone quadrangle courtyard?"

Dong Xuebing nodded, "For now, it's all mine."

"There are standalone quadrangle courtyards in Beijing?" Zhang Dongliang was speechless.

Dong Xuebing looked at him, "Yes, a few years ago, one was sold. What's the matter?"

He Zhou and Sun Zhaobang exchanged glances, their expressions also somewhat moved. If the previous villa surprised them, this standalone quadrangle courtyard was even more exaggerated. This was Houhai, within the second ring road, the very center of Beijing. It was known that beyond the second ring road wasn't considered part of Beijing. Here, every inch of land was precious. It could be understood if it was just a house, but a standalone quadrangle courtyard meant that the entire courtyard belonged to Dong Xuebing alone. This would cost tens of millions at the very least, but even with tens of millions, such standalone courtyards were not easy to come by. In Beijing, standalone quadrangle courtyards were rare, and those who owned them were unlikely to sell. So they didn't expect Director Dong to have one.

Dong Xuebing had already entered the house and brought out some chairs to place around the central stone table in the courtyard. "Please, have a seat."

Han Fei was at a loss for words.

Zhang Dongliang also emerged from the kitchen, smiling bitterly, "Director Dong's kitchen is bigger than my house. It's incomparable."

Small but fully equipped, this place was the same size as the villa. However, the standalone quadrangle courtyard and the villa had evidently different values, and the location was also several streets apart, not in the same league.

Dong Xuebing smiled and didn't bother them anymore. "Take a look around. I'll go cook."

Han Fei quickly offered, "Let me help, let me help."

Zhang Dongliang also volunteered, "I'll help too."

"Nobody should compete with me today. When we get to my place, listen to me." Dong Xuebing firmly ushered them away. "I'll cook today. Everyone wait to eat."

Taking the ingredients, Dong Xuebing plunged into the kitchen and began to work. His culinary skills had improved over time. Being in charge of cooking from a young age made him confident in his skills. After preparing the meat and vegetables, he started cooking.

Sizzling sounds filled the air, and Dong Xuebing, wearing an apron, skillfully cooked dish after dish. Finally, he called them, "Xiao Zhang, Xiao Sun, Xiao Han, bring the dishes."

"Got it."

"Coming."

Han Fei and the others came in to take the dishes.

When the last dish was ready, Dong Xuebing also carried it out. Seeing that they had already set up around the stone table under the Chinese toon tree, he placed the dishes down. "Taste my cooking."

Yin Cheng'an's appetite was immediately whetted. "Haha, it looks delicious."

He Zhou also praised sincerely, "It looks and smells appetizing."

Han Fei couldn't wait and picked up a chopstick to taste first. After chewing for a moment, she couldn't help but exclaim, "It's delicious! Even better than what my mom cooks. Director Dong, I didn't expect you to have this skill!"

Dong Xuebing chuckled, "If it's delicious, eat more."

Zhang Dongliang pulled out a chair. "You should sit too. You've worked hard."

"Alright." Dong Xuebing sat down but said, "By the way, no feast is complete without alcohol. Let's have some drinks, courtesy of Xiao Han and He Zhou who drove."

Yin Cheng'an said, "It's okay. The family compound isn't far. We can leave the cars here and walk back later tonight."

Dong Xuebing smiled, "If we drink too much, staying here is fine. Anyway, there's plenty of room. Each person can have their room."

Yin Cheng'an laughed, "Then let's have some drinks. It's been a long time."

"What does everyone want to drink?" Dong Xuebing asked.

"Anything is fine, what do you have?" Yin Cheng'an replied.

Dong Xuebing said, "We have Moutai and Wuliangye, as well as imported liquor, red wine, and whiskey. Well, why don't I bring them all out, and everyone can choose what they like?"

Han Fei immediately exclaimed, "I'll have red wine!"

Dong Xuebing replied, "Then you're in luck. I just bought Lafite, an '80s vintage."

Han Fei was delighted, "That's great! I love Lafite the most. Last time, I only got to drink it at my dad's friend's dinner party. I couldn't bear to buy it myself."

Dong Xuebing went back inside to fetch the wine. Bottle by bottle, he brought them out. Naturally, Dong Xuebing's home had no shortage of alcohol. Anything he kept was worth several thousand yuan at least.

Seeing this, everyone once again felt Dong Xuebing's generosity. They now understood that when Dong Xuebing said that the tens of thousands he offered to compensate Yang Zhen for the car repair earlier was nothing, it wasn't just boasting. With a standalone quadrangle courtyard worth tens of millions and bottles of wine worth several thousand or even tens of thousands each, how could a mere tens of thousands for a car repair bother him? They felt a little embarrassed about how they had offered to chip in earlier. They realized there was no need for them to worry. Dong Xuebing was treating them to this meal, and the wine alone was worth tens of thousands of RMB. There was no comparison. People were just different.

Once the glasses were filled, Han Fei raised her glass first. "Director Dong, I'll toast you first. Thank you for what happened this afternoon."

Dong Xuebing said, "No need, let's toast Yin Director first."

Yin Cheng'an laughed, "That won't do. Xiao Han should indeed toast you first."

He Zhou also raised her glass, "I'll join in the fun and toast Director Dong as well."

"I'll join too!" Sun Zhaobang and Zhang Dongliang raised their glasses as well.

Dong Xuebing had to clink glasses with Han Fei and the others first. Then, after filling his glass, he stood up and said, "I'll toast everyone. I'm new here, so I hope everyone can care for me."

"Dong Director, you're being too polite," He Zhou said.

"Yeah, it should be you taking care of us," Zhang Dongliang added.

Everyone clinked glasses and then drank up.

Han Fei couldn't hold her liquor well. She felt dizzy after two glasses of red wine and started talking more. "Director Dong, you're so wealthy. Why do you still drive a Xiali?"

Dong Xuebing smiled, "It doesn't matter what car you drive; it's just a means of transportation. But since the Xiali got wrecked, it won't be drivable anymore. I'll probably have to get a new car tomorrow."