

PAW 1641

Chapter 1641

Nightfall.

The sky darkened.

Dinner was eaten until after eight o'clock.

The lights were on in the quadrangle, and everyone sat around the stone table, eating and drinking, enjoying the pleasant atmosphere among colleagues.

"Here, have a drink."

"There's still a little left."

"Then let's all finish it." freewebnovel.com

"Alright, cheers!"

"Director Dong's alcohol tolerance is excellent."

"Come on, I can't compete. Director Yin's tolerance is better."

"Hehe, I didn't drink much. You guys didn't dare to make me drink."

"Since Director Yin said so, why be polite? I suggest another round."

"But it's already past eight. Director Dong should rest. Let's go back early after enjoying ourselves."

"Director Yin is obviously at his limit."

"Hey, don't expose me, hehe."

After dinner, Dong Xuebing and Yin Cheng'an started drinking tea to sober up. Zhang Dongliang and Han Fei helped clean up the dishes and utensils. Dong Xuebing suggested they leave the dishes in the kitchen for him to wash later, but they insisted on helping, knowing they were at a leader's house and the leader had personally cooked. It wouldn't be appropriate to let Dong Xuebing wash the dishes. Fortunately, no one drank excessively, and no one passed out.

After finishing their work, Dong Xuebing invited everyone to have tea.

"Okay." Han Fei sat down and picked up a teacup, taking a sip. "It's delicious."

Sun Zhaobang and Zhang Dongliang also came over, tasted the tea, and praised it. Although they didn't understand much about tea, they felt it enjoyable. It seemed different from the tea they had drunk before; it had a delicate fragrance.

Only Yin Cheng'an, who had been quietly tasting the tea, knew what it was. He gently put down the teacup and looked at them with a smile. "It's Dahongpao. Not the kind sold in supermarkets or tea shops, but tea leaves from old trees that haven't been sold to the public for a long time."

Han Fei blinked. "Dahongpao?"

He Zhou was surprised. "You're right. I've never tasted this kind of flavor before."

Yin Cheng'an laughed. "I had the chance to drink it once while traveling with a leader. I've always remembered this taste. How could I forget? This is a tea that becomes scarcer with each sip. I didn't

expect that I would have the chance to drink it again after so many years, and Dong Xuebing has it here."

Han Fei couldn't help exclaiming, "Is it true?"

He Zhou looked serious and took another sip.

Sun Zhaobang was also startled; he had just swallowed a mouthful. He hadn't even tasted it yet. He felt he had wasted a precious opportunity. Just one sip might cost thousands of dollars. This teapot was probably worth tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands. Like the quadrangle of Dong Xuebing's house, this kind of tea leaf was something that, even with money and power, couldn't be easily obtained. But this kind of Dahongpao was something they didn't know how to obtain. They had only heard about it occasionally.

Too extravagant.

Director Dong is living too luxuriously.

The more they looked, the less it resembled the life of a regular department-level cadre.

Even a Minister Level leader, not to mention a Division Chief level cadre, couldn't afford such an extravagant lifestyle.

Dong Xuebing said, "I got this from someone else. I had some left, but I gave some away later. I don't have much left now, but if Director Yin likes it, you can take some before you leave later."

Yin Cheng'an waved his hand. "No, I won't covet others' possessions."

Dong Xuebing chuckled. "I don't understand tea, so it's wasted on me."

"Don't say that. Keep it for yourself to enjoy. If I get addicted to it and have nothing to drink later, it would be a shame," Yin Cheng'an joked.

Seeing him decline, Dong Xuebing didn't say anything more. Even half an ounce of this tea was worth more than a thousand RMB. Everyone was from the Discipline Inspection Commission, and even more so, from the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection. They had to be more cautious than other officials in their daily lives. Dong Xuebing understood this, so he didn't insist.

Knowing how precious the tea was, everyone drank it more carefully. Each person tasted it with a severe expression and nodded in approval.

Dong Xuebing didn't mind drinking it. Firstly, he didn't take this tea seriously. It was harder for others to obtain but easier for him. He could always visit Senior Xie's house to get more if he ran out. Secondly, Dong Xuebing didn't understand tea. He couldn't tell the difference between Longjing and Maofeng. They all tasted the same to him. He didn't understand the value of Dahongpao. To him, this Dahongpao cost thousands of RMB per ounce and was no different from Coca-Cola. It was just for quenching thirst. He usually didn't drink it at home except to entertain guests.

A pot of tea was quickly finished. They could have continued drinking. Dong Xuebing usually drank tea like this at home. He didn't care about the rule that a teapot could only be brewed three times. Sometimes, he was too lazy to move or wait, so he brewed a cup of black tea and drank it all day. If guests came, he would take care to follow proper etiquette and replace the tea leaves, but he wouldn't mind pouring it out. He would add some more Dahongpao and wait.

Han Fei, having drunk a little alcohol, became more talkative. She exclaimed, "Director Dong, I calculated it. I estimate I've consumed tens of thousands in just a few hours at your house. I've never eaten such a luxurious meal before. We only spent a few thousand when we went to the Front Gate Restaurant. The four of us spent a few thousand together. If we count the six or seven of us today, we've easily spent hundreds of thousands."

Everyone was speechless when they heard this.

Indeed, it was true. Not to mention the Dahongpao, which had several bottles of wine and several decades-old Maotai worth over a hundred thousand RMB. When you added it all up, it was indeed hundreds of thousands.

Dong Xuebing interjected, "It's okay. It's not my money anyway. It's all from relatives and friends. I can't drink or eat it all by myself. Come often in the future."

Yin Cheng'an chuckled and said, "Once is enough. Just a sip of this tea costs thousands, and a cup of this wine costs thousands. I also drank nervously. But as they say, you get what you pay for. The taste is different. It's too enjoyable."

At this point, He Zhou felt for his cigarette case, but it was empty.

Both Dong Xuebing and Zhang Dongliang's cigarette cases were also empty. They had smoked quite a bit while drinking and chatting.

"Director Dong, is there a convenience store nearby?" He Zhou asked. "I'll buy some cigarettes."

Dong Xuebing glanced at his cigarette case, which was also empty. He thought about how the Chinese cigarettes at home were finished, and a few packs were still in the family compound. He hadn't had time to get them since moving. Suddenly, he said, "The convenience store is a bit far. Well, there are no cigarettes at home, but there are cigars."

He Zhou's eyes lit up. "Cigars?"

Dong Xuebing smiled. "I haven't opened them yet. Let's try them."

Yin Cheng'an didn't hesitate. "Let's try it. These cigars pack a punch."

Dong Xuebing went back to fetch them. Zhang Longjuan had brought them from abroad. Since Aunt Zhang liked smoking cigars, Dong Xuebing didn't have much interest in them, so he hadn't opened them yet. After rummaging around, he found the wooden box and placed it on the stone table.

Yin Cheng'an looked puzzled. "What kind of cigars are these?"

Sun Zhaobang said, "Hmm, I've never seen this kind of box before."

"I don't know either. They should be good," Dong Xuebing said as he struggled to open the box. Inside were only a few cigars, probably less than ten. He distributed them to everyone, took one for himself, and lit it. It was decent, but he didn't feel anything extraordinary. The taste was about the same. He grew up in an ordinary family, so he didn't have much concept or taste for luxury goods.

But there were words on the box.

He Zhou took a drag from his cigarette, and his face froze. He then carefully examined the wooden box and sucked in a breath. "These are Cohibas."

Han Fei asked, "What are Cohibas?"

"Cohiba wooden box, imported from Cuba," He Zhou explained. "This should be one of the most expensive cigars sold worldwide. I've only heard about it. These few cigars should cost around twenty to thirty thousand RMB, or even more."

Zhang Dongliang, who had just taken a puff, almost choked. He coughed violently. "Twenty to thirty thousand?"

A pack of Zhonghua cigarettes costs only a few hundred RMB, considered good, nationwide. How could these few cigars cost tens of thousands?

Dong Xuebing laughed. "I don't know. Let's try something new. Rarity makes things valuable. This cigar may not be that good. I still think Zhongnanghai is better."

Yin Cheng'an also chuckled. "How can Zhongnanghai compare? Although I haven't smoked Cohibas before, I've heard of them. The Cohiba wooden box is probably one of the most expensive cigars sold worldwide. Even China's most expensive Huanghelou from the 1990s isn't close to this price."

Naturally, Dong Xuebing knew this cigar wouldn't be cheap. Aunt Zhang was a billionaire. Could the things she gave be inferior? Not only were they expensive, but they were also probably not easy to buy. Otherwise, why would Aunt Zhang bring them from Africa for him?

Drinking tea.

Smoking cigars.

Everyone felt a bit unsettled.

This new Director Dong from the Second Office was too much. Even the ordinary consumables he casually took out from his home cost tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands. His small life was too enviable. Moreover, all this money came from legitimate sources. After a rough estimate, everyone felt that Dong Xuebing might be the wealthiest official in the country. Even corrupt officials probably couldn't match Dong Xuebing's assets.

Chapter 1642

Yin Chengan glanced at his watch. "It's getting late, let's go."

Han Fei stood up. "Director Dong, thank you for your hospitality."

"No problem," Dong Xuebing said. "Why don't you all stay here? There's plenty of room."

Yin Chengan shook his head. "Let's go back. I've already called for a car. It's not far. We'll be there in a few minutes."

Dong Xuebing didn't insist when he heard that. "Alright then. Feel free to come over anytime."

He then saw everyone off from the courtyard. The car they had called for had arrived and was waiting there.

After bidding farewell, Yin Chengan got into the car with He Zhou and Han Fei and drove off in the distance.

Once their car disappeared at the end of the alley, Dong Xuebing closed the courtyard gate and returned to his room. His head was spinning a bit. Although he hadn't drunk much today, mixing

foreign liquor with Maotai wasn't pleasant. Dong Xuebing didn't have an exceptionally high alcohol tolerance. Sitting in his study, he turned on some music and closed his eyes, massaging his temples to sober up.

The phone suddenly rang.

Dong Xuebing felt around for his phone and grabbed it from the desk. Squinting, he looked at the number. It was Su Jia, Old Yang's niece.

"Hello, Sister Su."

"What are you doing, Xiaobing?"

"Hey, nothing much, just listening to music."

"Your colleagues have all left."

"Yeah, just finished dinner, and they left. How about you?"

"My friends have all left, too. I just had a few bottles of Maotai with you, and it's making me feel a bit guilty. But I won't be polite to you. I know you're rich and don't care about these few liquor bottles."

"I'm not rich. Even if I were, I'd still want to give my sister some face."

"You're so polite. How about I come over for a while?"

"Sure. I'm still early for bed, and nothing is going on at home."

"Alright then. Where are you now? Give me the address."

"I'm in the alley at Houtiao, No. 5 courtyard."

"I came to Beijing without a car, so I'll drive yours over. The key should be in the drawer, right?"

"Yes. That's right. You can drive it. My car got damaged today, so I must drive the Land Rover to work tomorrow."

"Okay. See you in a bit."

"Alright. You haven't been drinking, right?"

"No, I haven't. Don't worry. I won't get into any trouble."

Dong Xuebing turned off the music, no longer in the mood to listen. He went to tidy up the room, making it spotless and sweeping the floor. He was quite particular about appearances. Since someone was coming over, he wanted to make the place look nice. It wouldn't do to have a dirty house.

About twenty minutes later, the brakes outside sounded, and the Land Rover arrived.

Dong Xuebing was very familiar with the sound of his car. He could tell that Su Jia had come. He opened the door and went out to greet her.

"Sister Su."

"Hey, I'm here."

"Please come in quickly."

"I parked the car here for you."

"Okay, just leave it here."

Dong Xuebing led Su Jia inside. "It's been a long time since I last saw you. Has your internship ended?"

As they walked, Su Jia replied, "I finished my internship at Xinhua News Agency and even went abroad for a trip. Thanks to you for recommending me for that opportunity. I haven't properly thanked you yet."

"Look at you, exaggerating," Dong Xuebing said.

"It's not an exaggeration. After this internship at Xinhua News Agency, I've gained some prestige. I performed quite well during the internship, and my main job is still at the TV station. My records are all at Yantai County Television Station. Later, Xinhua News Agency recommended me for an assessment at CCTV. There was a written test and an interview, and I barely passed. I should be moving to CCTV's headquarters in Huda in a few days, so I'll probably live in Beijing permanently. Then, I'll trouble you a lot." Su Jia said.

Dong Xuebing was taken aback. "CCTV is a great place."

Su Jia smiled. "Yes, it is. I don't know what exactly the job entails."

"Whatever it is, it's better than being at the county TV station." Dong Xuebing congratulated her. "Congratulations."

"Thanks to you," Su Jia said after entering the house. "Hmm, why is no one else living here but you?"

Dong Xuebing smiled. "Yeah, I just got this courtyard. It's pretty nice, so I moved in."

"You're quite something," Su Jia pointed at him. "Your fixed assets change every day. This courtyard must be worth several hundred million. You dare to buy it."

"Don't tell my mom. I want to surprise her when she comes over," Dong Xuebing said.

"That's not a surprise," Su Jia chuckled. "That's a shock. How many courtyards like this are left in Beijing? You're just making me envy you. No, I think I'll consider staying here tonight. There are plenty of rooms, and I've never lived in a courtyard house before."

Dong Xuebing didn't hesitate. "Sure, pick any room you like."

Su Jia looked around with great interest. "Come on, show me around."

Dong Xuebing chatted with her about work as they walked around, introducing her to each room.

After more than ten minutes, they both sat down in the study. freewebnovel.com

Su Jia looked stylish, unlike the outfit Dong Xuebing had seen her wearing in the villa. It seemed she had changed her clothes when she came out. Now, she wore dark green casual pants, a white sweater, black stockings wrapped around her feet, and black high heels. It was almost autumn, and the night was getting cold, but she still dressed warmly yet very fashionably. Especially her slim figure and slender legs looked remarkably smooth, exuding a charming feminine charm inside and out.

"Do you have any good movies, Xiaobing?"

"I'm not sure. There are quite a few on the computer."

"Since we have nothing to do, let's watch one together."

"Alright, they're all in the E drive. Let me do it."

"Hehe, are there any 'unsuitable' movies you don't want your sister to see?"

"Hey, there aren't. Don't talk like that. I'm not that kind of person."

Dong Xuebing blushed slightly as he found the movie folder with the mouse. Maybe it was because he had drunk too much, but he couldn't help stealing a few glances at Su Jia, who was sitting next to him. He looked at her beautiful feet, not-too-large chest, and pretty face.

Not bad.

Too bad she's my relative.

Dong Xuebing couldn't help but feel lustful, but since his mother and Uncle Yang had married, Su Jia had become his sister.

Perhaps Su Jia noticed. She smiled and gave him a playful glare. "What are you looking at? Are you interested in your sister?"

Chapter 1643

At night, in the study.

"Hey, what are you talking about?"

"Hehe, what are you looking at so intently?"

"Come on, I'm not looking at anything in particular."

"Are you sure? Maybe I was mistaken then."

"Isn't it strange that you're becoming more and more beautiful?"

"You, always saying things like that. But you're not wrong."

"Um, let's watch a movie. The new Superman movie is out. Let's watch it."

Opening the downloaded file, Dong Xuebing turned back to sit down, but there was only a small sofa in front of the computer desk, and Su Jia had already sat on it. Dong Xuebing had to bring a chair over, but the liquid crystal screen looked discolored from the side and unclear. After trying for a while, Dong Xuebing couldn't find a good position with the chair because the small sofa was taking up most of the space.

"Can't see clearly," Su Jia asked.

Dong Xuebing said, "The colors seem a bit off."

Su Jia patted the sofa's armrest, "Then sit here."

"Okay." Dong Xuebing didn't hesitate. They had known each other for a long time and were quite familiar with each other, so he didn't feel awkward. He sat on the sofa's armrest, leaning against the backrest, feeling a bit cramped but still manageable.

The movie began.

They both watched, but Dong Xuebing got bored after about twenty minutes. He didn't like this movie; it had too many flashbacks, and the plot wasn't as gripping as the earlier ones. It was probably a personal preference, but Su Jia seemed to enjoy it. Dong Xuebing yawned and started drinking tea while scanning the room. Eventually, his gaze fell on Su Jia. He thought she looked better than the movie. Since Dong Xuebing was sitting on the armrest, he was a bit taller than Su Jia, so he had an excellent angle to sneak a peek at her neckline. Su Jia was wearing a small sweater with a lot of fluff on her upper body. It was a loose-fitting style, and she wasn't wearing anything underneath.

One minute passed.

Three minutes passed.

Five minutes passed.

Su Jia finally moved and changed her posture so that she could continue watching the movie. As she moved, the neckline of her sweater bulged out, and Dong Xuebing finally saw a glimpse of a light blue bra underneath. It wasn't very big, nor was it very deep, but it had its charm. Dong Xuebing, who was used to seeing voluptuous figures, still enjoyed this sight. It was a change of pace; he believed that beauty came in all shapes and sizes. Dong Xuebing never had a particular preference, so he wasn't sure if it was an advantage or a disadvantage.

"It's good," Su Jia suddenly said.

Dong Xuebing instinctively responded, "Yeah, it's good."

Su Jia said, "I didn't used to like watching action movies like this, but now I think they're not bad. We should go to the cinema; I heard it's in 3D."

Dong Xuebing withdrew his gaze from her neckline, "You should have said so earlier. We could have gone to the cinema together. It's not far; there are several nearby."

Su Jia laughed, "Come on, it's already late."

Dong Xuebing said, "It doesn't matter; there's no rush. Aren't you staying here?"

"Yeah, where did you arrange for me to stay?" Su Jia turned her head.

Dong Xuebing smiled, "Of course, I'll give you the best one. You can stay in the north room, and I'll sleep in the west room."

Su Jia said, "The north room is where you stay. It wouldn't be appropriate for me to take your place."

Dong Xuebing politely replied, "It's all up to you. I'm fine; I can sleep anywhere. You should take the north room since you haven't stayed in a quadrangle courtyard before. It's the best place, warm in winter and cool in summer, with excellent lighting." He paused for a moment. "You go ahead and watch; I'm not very interested in this movie. I'll tidy up the house and change the bedding for you." With that, Dong Xuebing made an excuse to leave, returned to the north room, and lit a cigarette.

About an hour later, Su Jia came out of the study. "Xiao Bing, I'm done watching. I've also shut down the computer."

"Ah, alright." Dong Xuebing opened the door to the north room. "It's already past ten; you should rest early. You have things to do tomorrow, right?"

Su Jia smiled and nodded. "I have to go to CCTV."

Dong Xuebing said, "That's it. I've prepared the bed for you and changed the bedding."

"Okay." Su Jia went to freshen up and then entered the north room.

Dong Xuebing naturally didn't follow her in. Instead, he went to the study to turn off the lights, brushed his teeth, and washed his face. Finally, he prepared to go to the west room to sleep. However, as he walked through the courtyard, Dong Xuebing was startled to see the shadow on the window of the main room in the north room. The light was inside, and a woman's shadow was directly projected onto the thin curtain. The woman was fumbling with something behind her back. After a moment, she took something off, presumably her bra. Then, the shadow bent over and continued fumbling below.

It was quite an exciting sight.

Dong Xuebing couldn't help but stop and stare. He felt emboldened since the curtain was drawn and nothing could be seen from the outside. freewebnovel.com

One item.

Two items.

The woman seemed to have finished undressing. She moved a few steps and headed towards the bed. Soon, the light went out with a click, leaving everything pitch black, and Dong Xuebing couldn't see anything anymore.

Afraid of being caught, Dong Xuebing quickly and quietly opened the door to the west room and went in. Thinking back to the earlier scene, his heart raced.

Ring, ring, ring.

The phone rang.

It was from Dong Xuebing's mother, Luan Xiaoping.

Dong Xuebing immediately answered, "Mom, what's up?"

"Are you at home?" Luan Xiaoping said.

Dong Xuebing said, "I just watched a movie with Su Jia. Her classmate's gathering is over, too, and she said she's going to CCTV. It's a pretty good place."

Luan Xiaoping frowned. "It's so late, and is Xiao Su going back?"

Dong Xuebing said, "No, Su Jia is staying here. Anyway, there are plenty of rooms."

Dong Xuebing didn't think much of it, but Luan Xiaoping became concerned. Her tone became serious. "How could you let her stay? Xiao Su is your Uncle Yang's niece, and she's also your sister now. You better not have any ideas about Xiao Su, you hear me?"

Dong Xuebing was speechless. "Mom, what are you thinking?"

Luan Xiaoping huffed, "Mom's just giving you a warning. Don't think about Xiao Su just because she's pretty and unmarried. You hear me?"

Dong Xuebing retorted, "Am I that kind of person?"

His mother said, "Just be careful. Don't cause trouble for Mom. If you do anything to Xiao Su, your Uncle Yang will beat you to death."

"It's not even a possibility," Dong Xuebing sighed. "I'm hanging up; the more you say, the more chaotic it gets."

Chapter 1644

The next day, early in the morning.

While Dong Xuebing in the west room was still half-asleep, he heard someone brushing their teeth outside. Snore, snore, snore, snore. He woke up.

"Sister Su."

"Mmm."

"Ah, you're up so early."

"Yeah, I have to leave."

"Is there a car to the TV station? Otherwise, I can drive you."

"No need. You also have to go to work. I'll take a taxi."

After exchanging a few words with the person outside, Dong Xuebing rubbed his eyes and yawned as he got out of bed. After quickly getting dressed, he washed his face with cold water, instantly feeling more awake. Seeing the north room door open, he guessed that Sister Su had returned to tidy up, so he started to freshen up himself.

Around seven o'clock.

He was also ready to leave. After being late so many times, Dong Xuebing felt embarrassed to arrive at the office late again. Today, he decided to go a bit earlier.

"Xiao Bing." Suddenly, Su Jia's voice came from inside the room.

"I'm here." Dong Xuebing put down his toothbrush. "What's up, Sister Su?"

The woman inside the room said, "Does your house have any small pliers or something?"

"Huh?" Dong Xuebing was puzzled. It seems like we do, but I'm not sure. I've only been here for a few days; I'll have to look for them. What do you need pliers for?"

Su Jia paused for a moment. "My clothes are broken."

"Clothes?" Dong Xuebing was curious. "If a button falls off, you can use a needle and thread. Where would you need pliers? Can they even hold buttons?"

Su Jia sighed helplessly. "It's for my bra."

Dong Xuebing felt a bit awkward. "Oh, the clasp is broken?"

Su Jia responded, "Just now, while I was folding the quilt, I bent over, and it snapped. Can you find some pliers? I didn't bring any other clothes; my luggage is still at your villa. I can't just go out like this; it would be embarrassing. Today is also an interview at CCTV, which is quite important."

"Is it difficult to fix?" Dong Xuebing asked. "Otherwise, I can go out and buy you a new set. But it's early morning, and the shops aren't open yet. Alright, I'll find the pliers, don't worry." Dong Xuebing went to the east room to search but found nothing. Finally, he went to the kitchen in the south room and found pliers and other tools in a cabinet underneath. He brought the toolbox to the north room.

Inside the room, Su Jia struggled with the clasp of a blue bra. The metal ring of the back clasp seemed bent and crooked, making it impossible to fasten.

"I've brought them." Dong Xuebing's face reddened as he handed the tools to her.

Su Jia's expression wasn't too natural either. "Okay, give them to me." freewebnovel.com

After Dong Xuebing handed her the tools, he pretended to go out to pour some tea, avoiding the awkwardness. But Su Jia seemed somewhat clumsy with her hands, maybe because she was used to being pampered. After several minutes of Dong Xuebing pouring the tea and returning, she still struggled with the bed clasp. Her handling of the pliers seemed unfamiliar, giving the impression of being clumsy.

Su Jia was becoming impatient. "This damn thing."

Dong Xuebing blinked. "Do you want me to try?"

Su Jia looked up at him. "It's pretty damaged. Can you handle it?"

"I'll give it a try." Dong Xuebing didn't know if he could fix it, but he knew he couldn't let Su Jia go to CCTV with her bra broken.

Su Jia hesitated for a moment. "Alright, you can try." She handed him the bra and the pliers, looking a bit embarrassed.

"Let me handle it." Dong Xuebing's face felt hot the whole time. After all, it was a woman's intimate garment, and it felt a bit awkward. Dong Xuebing held Su Jia's bra, and he could feel its warmth. It had been taken off not long ago, still warm, and occasionally, a hint of a woman's fragrance would waft into his nose, softening his gaze. The scent was pleasant.

One clasp snapped.

A squeeze with the pliers.

A final twist.

In just a few seconds, Dong Xuebing fixed it. After securing the two clasps, he gently tugged at them, and they didn't come loose. Okay.

Su Jia smiled. "You're quite skilled."

Dong Xuebing smiled bitterly but couldn't help showing off a bit. "You know, our family wasn't wealthy before. I've repaired our TV and air conditioner. This is nothing. It's just that a bit of wire came out; it's done after tucking it back in. You can try it." freewebnovel.com

Su Jia nodded, looking at him.

Dong Xuebing suddenly realized, "I'll go out."

As he was leaving, Dong Xuebing couldn't help but glance at her bra, which was now empty. Although the sweater looked thin and didn't seem much different from yesterday, the psychological feeling was different because he knew it was bare inside.

A few minutes passed.

Su Jia came out of the north room. "All set, thank you."

Dong Xuebing smiled. "You're welcome. Let me send you."

Su Jia waved her hand. "Go to work. It's quite a distance to the office."

Calculating the time, there would be traffic at this hour. If Dong Xuebing sent her, he would probably be late for work again, so he didn't insist. "Alright, then. Let's stay in touch."

Su Jia smiled. "I'll live in Beijing more often now, so we'll surely meet again."

Dong Xuebing escorted Su Jia out, hailed a taxi by the roadside, and watched her leave before returning to the courtyard to collect his things, lock the door, and drive out of the alley in his Land Rover. He hadn't driven this car for a long time, but it seemed that Su Jia had washed it yesterday when she arrived. Now, it looked particularly shiny and beautiful. Holding the steering wheel of the Land Rover, Dong Xuebing felt extremely relieved. That old Xiali had caused him trouble. The brakes were sluggish, the throttle was obstructed, the suspension was poor, and it squeaked constantly. It even scratched people's clothes with its seats. It was just unbearable. His own Land Rover was much better; it had top-notch configurations in all aspects.

It had been a long time since he had experienced this driving pleasure. Dong Xuebing saw it was still early, so he took a detour and drove for half an hour before arriving at the office compound.

It was almost nine o'clock.

The government offices were about to start working.

Dong Xuebing had been driving leisurely, even humming a tune along the way. However, when the car was still far away, he suddenly saw a car not far away, the Audi A4 he had just crashed into yesterday. The license plate belonged to Yang Zhen. Perhaps the parts hadn't arrived yet, so Yang Zhen drove the car today instead of leaving it at the 4S shop for repairs. Therefore, Dong Xuebing recognized it at a glance.

What a coincidence.

Reencountering him.

He was about to drive into the office compound because Yang Zhen hadn't noticed him. Dong Xuebing's eyes narrowed, and he stepped on the accelerator.

Whoosh.

The engine roared.

Dong Xuebing drove his Land Rover and rushed out. Although the Audi was almost at the gate, its performance couldn't compare to this fully equipped Land Rover. The price difference was more than ten times. Dong Xuebing even intentionally stepped up, finding a shortcut and accelerating.

Ten meters.

Fifty meters.

Yang Zhen finally noticed a Land Rover trying to squeeze into the compound with him and was startled. He cursed and stepped on the gas pedal.

Dong Xuebing didn't release the accelerator; he just kept going forward without blinking.

The two cars would collide at the gate if they continued like this. But when it came to courage, Dong Xuebing had never been afraid of anyone.

Sure enough, Yang Zhen was also intimidated by the Land Rover's momentum. Upon closer inspection, this was a top-of-the-line Land Rover worth four million, much more expensive than his car. The psychological pressure softened, and with a screech, he stepped on the brakes and retreated.

Dong Xuebing couldn't help but swagger past, driving straight into the compound.

Many people were watching, unable to help but point and talk about the Land Rover.

"Whose car is that?"

"I don't know, I've never seen it before."

"Why is he driving so recklessly?"

"Yeah, isn't he just forcing his way through?"

But Dong Xuebing was completely oblivious. Yang Zhen had snatched his road with his Audi yesterday. It was only fair for Dong Xuebing to retaliate. Despite having already given Yang Zhen a hard time yesterday, crashing into his car and even hitting him, Dong Xuebing was a vengeful rascal sometimes. How could he let others bully him without retaliating? His way of thinking differed from others, leading to today's scene.

Yang Zhen rolled down his window and yelled, "What are you doing?"

When Dong Xuebing stopped the car, he turned his head and poked his head out. "Who are you talking to? This is just how I drive. What's wrong?" He added a few more words in his mind: "You bastard."

"Huh?"

"Director Dong!"

"Isn't that Dong Xuebing from the Second Office?"

Everyone suddenly realized, shocked.

Yang Zhen was also stunned, never expecting it to be him. He became even more annoyed. "Can't you drive properly?"

Dong Xuebing sneered. "I really can't. Can you teach me how to drive?"

Yang Zhen and Dong Xuebing argued for a while before Dong Xuebing drove away in the Land Rover, feeling even better. This guy couldn't go a day without causing trouble; it was just his nature. If it were someone else, after humiliating Yang Zhen yesterday, they would have been low-key

today after winning. The victor was always magnanimous. But Dong Xuebing's way of doing things was incomprehensible to everyone else. He acted according to his nature most of the time.

Yang Zhen was furious.

Others looked at each other, never having seen such a discipline inspection official. He won yesterday, yet today, he still had to disgust people to death.

Sweat.

They were in awe of Dong Xuebing.

"By the way, that car is a Land Rover, right?"

"Not just any Land Rover, it's a Range Rover, the top model."

"Yeah, I remember seeing it before. This car is worth at least four million."

"What? That expensive? Wasn't Director Dong driving a Xiali before?"

"Who knows, maybe he got a bit low-key after taking office and got himself a Xiali."

"A four million RMB car? Even our Discipline Inspection Secretary doesn't drive such an expensive car. Director Dong from the Second Office is really rich."

Chapter 1645

Morning.

Office compound.

Dong Xuebing drove his Land Rover in, turned a corner, stopped under the office building, stepped on the brake, and then exited the car after unfastening the seatbelt.

"Oh, Director Dong."

"Yeah, Xiaohan."

"Why did you change your car?"

"The Xiali couldn't be driven anymore, so I got a new one."

"Is this your car?"

"Yes, I bought it more than a year ago."

"It's a good car, so beautiful. Wow, the license plate number 6666 is so cool."

When he arrived downstairs, Dong Xuebing met Han Fei, who came to work today riding a bicycle instead of driving. They chatted for a while at the door. Han Fei was amazed by the Land Rover, which was worth several million, and the license plate with "6666" at the beginning, which caught everyone's attention. Many people were surprised, apparently not expecting a cadre who drove a broken Xiali yesterday to change to a Land Rover today.

So you have money, huh? Previously, driving a Xiali meant pretending to be low-key.

Everyone looked at Dong Xuebing with even more strange eyes.

Dong Xuebing chatted with Han Fei as he went upstairs. Director Yin hadn't arrived yet, but the other cadres of the Second Office were already seated in the office area.

"Director Dong."

"Good morning, Director."

Hezhou and Sun Zhaobang greeted him with smiles.

Dong Xuebing nodded and smiled, "Good morning."

Zhang Dongliang raised the bag of steamed buns in his hand, "Have you had breakfast? I bought a few extra. Can't finish them all. There are still plenty of buns left. Have some."

Dong Xuebing didn't hesitate, "I haven't eaten yet. Okay, three."

"Don't be modest, take five." Zhang Dongliang handed him a bag.

"Alright, thanks." Dong Xuebing took it and went to his own office to have breakfast.

After yesterday's events and the dinner, Dong Xuebing's relationship with the others in the Second Office quickly became harmonious. It was considered that he had completely integrated into this collective. Everyone's impression of this new Director Dong had changed, and no one complained privately about him not fitting in as they did initially.

As soon as Director Dong left, Han Fei started chattering, whispering to everyone, "Hey, did you know Director Dong came in a Land Rover."

Hezhou was stunned. "What Land Rover?"

Han Fei said, "A Range Rover. Top of the line." freewebnovel.com

Zhang Dongliang was shocked, "Ah, a top-of-the-line Range Rover costs several million, right?"

"Is it appropriate to drive such an expensive car?" Sun Zhaobang clicked his tongue.

Han Fei giggled, "He already has villas worth tens of millions and a courtyard worth hundreds of millions. Is it inappropriate to drive a car worth several million?"

Hezhou smiled bitterly, "That's being rich."

Han Fei chuckled, "You didn't see the expressions of people from other departments. They thought Director Dong was poor, driving to work in a broken Xiali. Now they're all dumbfounded. And the license plate starts with '6666.' Haha, this is what low-key is. They don't understand."

Hezhou was surprised, "That license plate."

Sun Zhaobang added, "That plate isn't something ordinary people can get."

Han Fei had forgotten that she used to have the biggest objections to Director Dong, but now she was helping to praise him, "That's called hiding your wealth."

Inside the room.

Dong Xuebing finished breakfast and began to sort through several documents, leisurely correcting them. Of course, he had music playing on his computer as well. Life after dealing with the issue was relatively comfortable. The usually tedious reports and documents were now interesting to Dong Xuebing. He swiftly reviewed the content, signing where needed and marking others for review. He gradually cleared the accumulated work from his recent business trip. He rarely had the

opportunity to do something substantial since he had been at the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection for so many days.

More than half an hour passed.

A stack of corrected documents lay on the desk, and Dong Xuebing was about to call someone in when his phone rang.

Without looking, Dong Xuebing answered, "Hello, who's this?"

The voice on the other end belonged to a middle-aged woman. "Xuebing, it's me, Luo Haiting."

Surprised, Dong Xuebing smiled, "Oh, it's Sister Luo. I didn't check the number before answering. It's been a while. How have you been?"

There was a smile in Luo Haiting's voice as she replied, "I've been fine."

Dong Xuebing asked, "How's your husband and child?"

"They're fine too, no problems. How about you?" Luo Haiting asked politely.

"I'm doing okay too." Dong Xuebing paused. "What's the matter? Why are you calling me?"

Sister Luo was one of Dong Xuebing's older subordinates. When he was in Yantai County, Luo Haiting worked with him and was the first to support him. Later, when Dong Xuebing went to the City Commission for Discipline Inspection and needed help, he brought Luo Haiting along. Even when Dong Xuebing was about to leave, he suggested that Sister Luo take over his position, and she became the director of the Supervision Office of the City Commission for Discipline Inspection. She was already a deputy division Chief-level cadre.

In recent years, Luo Haiting had risen rapidly, and at her age, such quick promotion was considered a late bloomer. In the system, quite a few people like her were still stuck at the department Chief level in their thirties and forties but then suddenly rose to the Sub-Provincial level after turning forty.

However, Dong Xuebing couldn't comment on Luo Haiting's ability because he felt that Sister Luo lacked outstanding skills. She was just an average woman but looked good, especially for someone in her forties. She was good at dressing up, loved to dress up, cooked very well, and could handle things. Faced with such a pleasant Sister Luo, Dong Xuebing naturally took good care of her. It could be said that he had always been biased towards beautiful women, which was inevitable. After all, everyone has their desires and emotions.

Dong Xuebing heard Sister Luo ask, "How's your work?"

"Yeah." Dong Xuebing was puzzled. "Just started working. What's up?"

Sister Luo said, "I'm also in the yard of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection."

Dong Xuebing exclaimed, "You're downstairs in the yard. How did you come to Beijing?" He couldn't help but get up and walk to the window, looking down, but he didn't see Sister Luo's figure. She might be in another direction or somewhere near the front yard.

Sister Luo explained, "I'm here in Beijing this time for a meeting and to deal with some trouble."

Dong Xuebing chuckled, "I see. I am dealing with trouble and then having a meeting."

Sister Luo felt a bit embarrassed. "You could say that. It's also a task assigned to me by the city leaders. Xuebing, I'm unfamiliar with anyone here and don't know who's who. I'm getting dizzy from walking around this yard. Can you help me out? I only know you here."

Dong Xuebing asked, "What kind of trouble is it?"

"I can't talk about it here. Can I go and see you?" Sister Luo suggested.

Dong Xuebing hesitantly said, "Sure, I'm in the Eighth Supervision Office, Section Two. Just come over directly. I'll inform the people outside later."

"Alright, I'll be there soon," replied Luo Haiting.

After hanging up, Dong Xuebing picked up the landline phone on his desk and called the office area outside, "Hello, Xiaozhang, come to my office for a moment."

A few seconds later.

Knock knock, a knocking sound came from the door.

"Come in," Dong Xuebing said, looking up.

Zhang Dongliang entered the room, "Director Dong, did you call for me?"

Dong Xuebing pushed the documents he had just processed forward, "They're all done. Take them away. I'll handle the rest this afternoon." After Zhang Dongliang acknowledged and took the documents, Dong Xuebing added, "Oh, by the way, a friend of mine will come later. If she arrives, just let her in."

"Okay, Director Dong," nodded Zhang Dongliang as he left.

After a while.

Voices could be heard from outside.

"Is this the Eighth Room, Second Section?"

"Yes, it is. Who are you looking for?"

"I'm looking for Director Dong."

"Ah, please come in. Director Dong's office is in this room."

"Thank you, comrade."

"You're welcome. Director Dong said you can go in directly."

The door opened, and a brightly dressed figure entered Dong Xuebing's office. After closing the door, the beautiful woman smiled at Dong Xuebing behind the desk.

Dong Xuebing also looked at her, smiling as he greeted her, "Sister Luo." freewebnovel.com

Luo Haiting smiled, "I'm causing trouble for you again, Brother Dong."

"Come on, take a seat." Dong Xuebing handed her a disposable cup and poured some water into it.

"It's been a while. You still look beautiful."

Luo Haiting took the cup, her face full of smiles, "Where did you see that? Thank you."

It had been several years, but Luo Haiting hadn't changed much, just like when Dong Xuebing first saw her. Her personality was the same, too. Look at her, wearing a long dress in bright red and purple with big flowers, a purple butterfly hairpin on top of her head, and pointed black patent leather high-heeled shoes on her feet wrapped in black stockings. She radiated a kind of brilliance inside and out. Sister Luo was already a cadre in the Discipline Inspection Commission, but she still loved to dress up. Dong Xuebing couldn't help but feel amused and helpless, but she still looked pleasing to the eye and attractive.

Besides her appearance, everything else remained the same.

Her face was familiar and beautiful, and her figure was slightly fuller.

Dong Xuebing couldn't help but take a few more glances, but of course, he did it sneakily. There had been some slight ambiguity between him and Sister Luo, but it had never been explicitly addressed.

The two sat face to face.

"Why did you come here?" Dong Xuebing asked, taking some fruits and melon seeds from the side. "Have some fruits first."

Luo Haiting glanced at him, then leaned over to pick them up, "You don't have to. I'll help myself." She bent over, her neckline dropping.

The sunlight hit Dong Xuebing's back directly, and the light shone directly into Luo Sister's neckline. This view was as clear as it could be.

The flesh-colored bra.

The deep cleavage.

A glance made Dong Xuebing feel a bit dizzy, and the mature woman's fragrance seemed to emanate from her neckline and bra, hitting Dong Xuebing's face, along with a slightly warm sensation, making Dong Xuebing take a deep breath, feeling itchy in his heart.

Chapter 1646

It's ten o'clock.

In the office.

Dong Xuebing indulged his eyes.

"Just came over in the morning," Luo Haiting said.

"Just arrived and in such a hurry?" Dong Xuebing glanced at her.

"Yeah, the city urgently needed someone to handle things," Luo Haiting sighed.

"What's the matter? You tell me first, and I'll see if I can help," Dong Xuebing asked.

Luo Haiting sat back, her chest trembling slightly, but she didn't notice her exposure. She peeled an orange slice, gave half to Dong Xuebing, and then took one for herself before speaking, "Actually, it's not very serious, but it's not easy to handle. Some petitioners from Fenzhou City came to Beijing a few days ago. The people at the liaison office failed to intercept them, and it was just a coincidence that they found a cadre from the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection and

caused a scene for several days. Finally, that cadre probably couldn't take it anymore and handed their petition to the Complaints Office. We only found out about it yesterday."

"What are they petitioning about?" Dong Xuebing asked.

"They're accusing our City Commission for Discipline Inspection. We investigated a corrupt official and gathered evidence, but those petitioners started causing trouble. It was supposed to be confidential, but the news got out somehow. We hadn't collected enough evidence because of their disturbance, and the official under investigation fled. We missed the opportunity, and now the petitioners are accusing us of negligence, claiming that we deliberately let the official go. Where can we go to reason with them? We would have controlled the situation if they hadn't caused trouble, and the other party wouldn't have received advance notice. But now they're blaming us."

"Has the petition been accepted?" Dong Xuebing asked.

Luo Haiting shook her head, "Not yet, but we've received information. Maybe the Complaints Office will submit it along with this month's complaints in the next few days. Generally, it should be fine after the leaders review it, but I'm worried something might go wrong. If the leader in charge of our province at the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection sees it and casually calls the Provincial Commission for Discipline Inspection, our City Commission for Discipline Inspection will be in trouble. It'll be too late to do anything then. So, they sent me over to handle it. I don't know how to approach it yet. I don't know anyone here, so why would they withdraw the report and not report it? Why should they give me face? It's really difficult. I have no other options, so she thought of asking you to see if you can come up with a solution."

"Regarding this matter..." Dong Xuebing nodded but didn't make any promises. He stood up and said, "You seem quite anxious. How about this? I'll take you over and ask."

Luo Haiting smiled, "You're always so good to me."

Dong Xuebing coughed, "Let's go and see where the petition is."

The two of them left the office, and Dong Xuebing also greeted He Zhou and Han Fei before saying he was going out to handle some matters. Then, he went downstairs with Sister Luo.

In the front yard. freewebnovel.com

The Complaints Office was also a large department with many offices underneath and had a separate office building. It wasn't close to the Second Section's office building but near the second cafeteria.

It took five minutes to get there.

On the way, Luo Haiting looked around strangely, "Xuebing, why do I feel like everyone is watching us? Did I come at the wrong time?"

Dong Xuebing knew she had overthought it. "Hehe, I guess they're all looking at me."

Luo Haiting blinked, understanding. Dong Xuebing was Dong Xuebing. Wherever he went, he always seemed to bring trouble. Sister Luo had worked with Dong Xuebing for a long time and naturally understood his character well.

Upstairs.

Dong Xuebing had just arrived and had little interaction with this side. The first person was to find someone he knew, and that would be Lan Xuewen, the Deputy Director of the Comprehensive Information Department of the Complaints Office.

They arrived at Old Lan's department.

As soon as they entered, many people's eyes turned to Dong Xuebing. Some looked at him strangely, and others whispered to each other. Some people in the Complaints Office also knew about the conflict between the two departments yesterday.

Dong Xuebing didn't mind. "Is Director Lan here?"

An office door opened. "Oh, Director Dong."

Dong Xuebing smiled slightly. "I have a bit of a matter."

Lan Xuewen walked out with some documents. "I'm about to go out. Let's talk as we walk."

In the hallway, Dong Xuebing gestured to Luo Haiting beside him. "This is a colleague from the Fenzhou City Commission for Discipline Inspection, an old friend. Since we couldn't find the Complaints Office, I brought her over. There was an incident with petitioners recently. Who do you think we should talk to?"

Lan Xuewen pondered for a moment. "Ah, that matter. I heard about it recently. The petition was handed over to our department. It was supposed to be reported with other files from the past two days. After all, Director Zhang from the rectification side transferred it. If you want to withdraw it, I can't make the decision alone. We might need to consult with the higher-ups."

At this moment, someone approached them in the hallway.

Lan Xuewen immediately said, "Director Sun."

Director Sun, head of the Complaints Office, looked at them, and his gaze finally fell on Dong Xuebing's face. He nodded slightly at them and continued up the stairs.

However, Lan Xuewen stopped him. "Director Sun, this is a colleague from the Fenzhou City Commission for Discipline Inspection, here regarding the petition."

Director Sun acknowledged with a grunt but didn't answer. Instead, he looked at Dong Xuebing. "Is this Section 8's case?" It was clear he knew Dong Xuebing. Otherwise, he wouldn't have known he was from Section 8.

Dong Xuebing smiled. "Not really. Director Luo is an old colleague of mine. Since she couldn't find her way to the Complaints Office, and the yard was too big, I brought her over. Hehe, I'm just responsible for showing her the way. I won't interfere with the specifics. Director Sun, it's up to you to give them directions." Although he said he wouldn't interfere, he mentioned that Luo Haiting was his old colleague, which was already interfering.

Luo Haiting quickly added, "Director Sun, the issue with the petition is completely unfounded. Most of it is based on one-sided claims, so the leadership asked me to come over and explain."

After listening, Director Sun grunted again. "I glanced at the report when it was sent over. Don't worry about it. You can go back." Then, he looked at Lan Xuewen. "Withdraw it; there is no need to report it. That's it." With that, he turned and went upstairs without saying anything more.

Upon hearing this, Luo Haiting hurriedly said, "Thank you, Director Sun."

Once everyone left, she quickly said to Lan Xuewen, "Director Lan, thank you very much for this."

Lan Xuewen smiled, "Forget it; Director Sun obviously gave face to Director Dong. I don't have that much influence." That was the truth. Lan Xuewen was quite self-aware.

Chapter 1647

Downstairs.

Before 11 am.

Dong Xuebing and Luo Haiting left the Petition Office's office building. Lan Xuewen came out to handle some business and followed them outside. freewebnovel.com

"Director Dong, I'm leaving."

"Alright, we're heading back too."

"Okay, if you need anything, just call me."

"Haha, I'll probably trouble you a lot; you must be busy, too."

Lan Xuewen walked to another office building while Dong Xuebing and Luo Haiting headed back.

Luo Haiting, wearing a fiery red dress, was quite eye-catching in the courtyard. After all, this was the Disciplinary Committee, where many people dressed formally, even wearing suits. Even female disciplinary comrades tended to dress more formally, with even casual wear or dresses leaning towards very dark colors. Luo, however, stood out with her brightly colored clothes and hairpins. Plus, being a very beautiful woman walking with Dong Xuebing, who had recently caused some trouble, many people couldn't help but glance at her more than once.

After a turn, the two walked inside.

Luo Haiting smiled and said, "You are influential. I didn't know how to handle it; it was quite troublesome, but you solved it for me with just a word. Thank you, Xuebing. Oh, these past few years, you've always helped me, making me feel embarrassed."

Luo Haiting hadn't expected this matter to be resolved so easily. Dong Xuebing hadn't even said much, just stood with her, and the deputy director, Sun from the Petition Office, had given Dong Xuebing face. Previously, Luo Haiting thought Xuebing had just taken office and might not have such broad connections, but it turned out to be the opposite. By resolving this matter, a weight was lifted off her's shoulders.

Dong Xuebing hadn't expected it to be so easy either. He had a good impression of Sun, the deputy director of the Petition Office, who reciprocated respect when respected.

Respect is mutual.

Dong Xuebing smiled, "Do we still need to be polite? We've been old colleagues for so many years."

Luo Haiting sighed and said, "You always help me, big sister hasn't helped you much."

"Stop being polite to me," Dong Xuebing said, "You helped me during our time in the Investment Promotion Agency and the City Disciplinary Committee."

"That's all trivial matters," Luo Haiting said.

Dong Xuebing chuckled, "I don't think they're trivial matters."

"Alright, big sister won't thank you then. I'll treat you to lunch at noon." Luo Haiting looked at him, "I'm just not sure if you're busy or not if you have time."

Dong Xuebing glanced at her, "If Sister Luo invites me, even if I'm busy, I'll make time."

Luo Haiting smiled knowingly and adjusted her long hair. "Then it's settled. Hmm, there's still some time before noon. Why don't you continue working? I'll go out and wander around, and when it's time for your lunch break at twelve, will big sister come over?"

Dong Xuebing waved his hand. "You came from far away. How can I let you wander outside waiting for me? It's still early. Just come to my office and sit down."

Luo Haiting smiled, "I'm not worried about you being busy; I have nothing to do anyway; the meeting is only in the next two days."

"I'm not busy over there." Dong Xuebing gestured for her to continue walking, "I sit from morning till night every day now. I'm worried about not having enough work to do. It's different from when we were at the Municipal Disciplinary Committee. There's not much going on here. Most of it is guidance and inspection work for the lower levels. I've been here for a month and haven't encountered any cases yet. It's all miscellaneous small matters, making me feel like I'm not using my energy."

"If you have a case that involves officials at the ministerial level, it would attract a lot of attention. I guess there wouldn't be these kinds of things happening often. Oh, I envy you. Over on my side, there's a pile of work every day. Sometimes, we have to investigate cases, handle reports, and provide guidance work. It's really busy." Dong Xuebing asked, "How are our old friends doing?"

Luo Haiting replied, "Mayor Xie... Secretary Xie, when you left, we felt quite pressured here, but Mayor Zhong has been taking care of us."

...

Second Office.

Office.

The two came in and closed the door.

Dong Xuebing sat down behind his desk and heard Sister Luo's phone ringing.

Luo Haiting looked at the number when she sat down and said to Dong Xuebing, "It's Mayor Zhong."

This matter was of concern to the Discipline Inspection Commission of Fenzhou City and the city. After all, it was escalated to the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, and nobody's face looked good.

"Hello, Mayor Zhong."

"Old Luo, what's the situation?"

"Everything's been resolved."

"Oh? So quickly?"

"Yes, the Petition Office has already withdrawn the petition letter."

"Well done. Haha, did you see Director Dong?"

"I did. Director Dong brought me over."

"Good, give him my regards. If he has time, I'll invite him to dinner in Beijing."

After hanging up the phone, Luo Haiting relayed Mayor Zhong's words to Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing nodded, "But if anyone's inviting Mayor Zhong, it should be me. Haha. Oh, by the way, Sister Luo, did you come alone this time?"

Luo Haiting nodded, "Just big sister alone."

Dong Xuebing asked, "When are you going back?"

"I have a meeting the day after tomorrow. Maybe Monday or Tuesday next week," Luo Haiting replied.

"Well, that's still early. Tomorrow's also the weekend, and I'll be at home anyway. Let's contact each other when it's time," Dong Xuebing said.

Luo Haiting said, "Okay, I will follow your arrangement, haha."

Dong Xuebing then checked what to eat for lunch, "Where do you want to eat?"

Luo Haiting touched her bright red dress and said, "Anywhere is fine, I will listen to you."

"Don't just agree. I'm not sure what to eat either. I haven't eaten much at nearby restaurants. There are some good ones farther away, but I'm afraid we won't be able to come back in the afternoon," Dong Xuebing continued to browse the web.

"Then let me take a look?"

"Sure, take a look."

Luo Haiting came up and stood behind Dong Xuebing.

"There are probably seven or eight restaurants," Dong Xuebing pointed to them, "Which one do you think is good?"

Then, in the next moment, Dong Xuebing felt a warm and soft pressure on the back of his head, and his mouth twitched.

So soft!

Pressing against him softly!

Luo Haiting leaned over, bending at the waist, her chest pressing against Dong Xuebing's head, even wrapping around his neck as she leaned lower. "This place seems nice. Roasted lamb leg? I've had it once before; it was really delicious, and I've been thinking about it."

Dong Xuebing felt embarrassed, "Ahem, then roasted lamb leg it is?"

"Okay." Luo Haiting smiled, taking her gaze off the computer screen and sitting back on the chair very naturally.

Dong Xuebing smiled wryly in his heart. Sister Luo always pulled this trick, sweat, but Dong Xuebing fell for it every time.

Chapter 1648

The next day.

Saturday.

Dong Xuebing slept until nine in the morning, yawning as he got out of bed to brush his teeth. With nothing else to do, he sat in the courtyard and drank tea.

"In the end, dreams shatter amidst confusion."

"Suddenly hearing that spring is fading, I ascend the mountain with strength."

"Passing by the bamboo grove, I encounter a monk."

"Stealing half a day of leisure from the fleeting life."

Dong Xuebing indulged in some rare literary pursuits, shaking his head as he managed to squeeze out a poem. Of course, he had memorized this poem back in college, and it had been many years. He couldn't recall it perfectly. He recited it after a moment of thought, feeling inspired and wanting to compose another. However, after struggling for a while, he couldn't come up with a second one to match the occasion. He coughed awkwardly, feeling embarrassed. He had always his duties; how could he suddenly get artistic?

Ring, ring, ring.

His phone rang on the stone table.

Dong Xuebing checked and saw it was his mother-in-law calling.

"Hello, Mom."

"Xiao Bing, what are you doing?"

"Hi, just hanging out at home, absolutely bored."

"Well, how come I heard you recently got a traditional Chinese courtyard?"

"Ah, who did you hear that from?"

"Just tell me if it's true or not."

"Cough, cough, cough, well, it's true. Um, I wanted to tell you earlier, but I wanted to surprise you. Who knew you'd find out, and you're so well-informed, Mom."

"Hehe, stop flattering me. You little guy, even as a cadre of the Commission for Discipline Inspection, you managed to get a Traditional Chinese courtyard."

"Mom, I understand. Don't worry, it's all legitimate. I'm not afraid of any investigation."

"Even your grandfather never lived in a Traditional Chinese courtyard, and you managed to get one before him."

Dong Xuebing knew that it must have been those people from his Second Office who had visited his home last time. Someone must have boasted to them, and that's how the news got out. It

probably reached the ears of some leaders at the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection and then to Mdm Han. But this was something he couldn't hide, and he hadn't planned to. He did everything properly, and the house was obtained through legitimate means. What was there to fear?

Just then, Mdm Han's voice came through the phone, "Xiao Jing and Xiao Hao are here with me. We were chatting."

As she was speaking, someone interrupted her.

"Auntie, let me talk, let me talk," It was that brat, Xie Hao.

"Hehe, why are you rushing? I'll give it to you, you little rascal," Mdm Han laughed.

The voice on the phone changed, "Brother-in-law, haha, guess who I am."

Dong Xuebing was speechless but wasn't so polite with Xie Hao, "How old are you? If you have something to say, say it quickly. I am busy."

Xie Hao chuckled, "What are you busy with? My aunt told me that you're so idle you don't know what to do. My sister and nephew aren't even in the capital, so even if you want to be busy, you can't."

Dong Xuebing: "You're just talking nonsense."

Xie Hao grinned, "My sister and I are planning to come over."

"Why?" Dong Xuebing asked.

"To see your Traditional Chinese courtyard," Xie Hao exclaimed excitedly, "You've bought a new house, but you didn't tell us to come and see. We can only come on our own."

Dong Xuebing sighed, "There's nothing special to see."

Xie Hao exclaimed, "There are only a few Traditional Chinese courtyards in the capital. Even my grandfather hasn't lived in one. Of course, we have to see it. It's a house worth several hundred million RMB. I've never lived in one in my whole life." This kid was just interested in expensive things, especially sensitive to expensive things. "That's it. We'll be there soon."

Dong Xuebing chuckled, "You're the only one who can make such a fuss. Alright, come on, come on. Oh, ask my mom and dad if they're coming."

"Auntie, my brother-in-law is asking if you're coming," Xie Hao relayed.

Mdm Han took the phone, "You guys go ahead. I'm not going."

Dong Xuebing politely said, "You and dad should come. I'll cook personally."

Mdm Han smiled contentedly, "Next time. Next time, I'll go with your dad to visit your Traditional Chinese courtyard. Today, your dad is working overtime and will be back for lunch. I have to wait to cook for him."

Dong Xuebing nodded, "Alright, whenever you and my dad are free, come over. It's right next to Houhai, and the environment is particularly good. It's guaranteed to make you feel several years younger whenever you come over to stay for a while. You can even retire here in the future. When you come over, I'll cook for you and my dad daily, so you two don't need to be busy."

Mdm Han chuckled, "Alright, my son-in-law is so good to me."

Dong Xuebing was articulate, likable, and capable. Besides occasionally causing trouble, he always satisfied Mdm Han as a son-in-law.

The phone was passed to Xie Jing, "Brother-in-law, can you give me the address?"

"Sure, just jot it down." After giving the address, Dong Xuebing added, "Bring Xiao Ran along too. The more, the merrier."

Xie Jing giggled, "Alright."

"Oh, is Sun Kai coming?" Dong Xuebing asked.

"He's busy with work at his school. It's hard for me even to see him once. Hmph, always working," Xie Jing complained.

Dong Xuebing laughed, "Being ambitious is a good thing."

An hour later.

Around ten o'clock.

When Dong Xuebing returned from grocery shopping, he brought everything into the kitchen and started washing and chopping the vegetables. Although Dong Xuebing, as the younger generation of the Xie family, might even be considered higher in status than Xie Huilan according to traditional Chinese values, neither Xie Ran, Xie Jing, or Xie Hao knew how to cook. They probably hadn't even done household chores much, just like Xie Huilan. They had been pampered since childhood. Therefore, Dong Xuebing had to cook himself.

Suddenly, the courtyard door rang.

Footsteps trickled in.

Dong Xuebing didn't close the door, knowing someone was coming. He wiped his hands, put down the vegetables, and walked out. At a glance, he saw his younger siblings coming in.

"Brother-in-law," Xie Ran said.

"Haha, brother-in-law," Xie Hao echoed.

Xie Jing said, "Brother-in-law, we're here."

"Come in quickly," Dong Xuebing greeted. He didn't look at them again because he saw a very pretty girl from behind whom he had never seen before. She looked about twenty years old, younger than Xie Ran and Xie Jing, about the same age as Dong Xuebing. She wore a very elegant dress, giving off a quiet and refined vibe.

Fang Shuling glanced at Dong Xuebing and said softly, "Brother Dong."

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Dong Xuebing blinked, "Hello, um, who is this?"

Only to see Xie Ran grabbing the girl's hand, "My girlfriend."

Dong Xuebing was surprised, "Oh, you're dating already? Why didn't I know?"

Xie Jing giggled, "I just found out, too. My brother just started dating and hasn't told anyone yet."

Xie Hao snorted, "You're married; she is dating, and I'm the only one left. No way, I also need to find a girl."

Fang Shuling pursed her lips and chuckled, amused by the banter.

Dong Xuebing then kicked Xie Hao jokingly, "You're still young. What's the point of talking about girlfriends? Focus on your studies, or I'll beat you up."

Xie Hao rolled his eyes, "I can't fall behind, anyway."

Dong Xuebing said, "Alright, I'll tell Huilan later. Let's see how she deals with you."

Fearless of anything else, Xie Hao was afraid of his big sister Xie Huilan, and hastily said, "Please, brother-in-law, don't tell her."

After some playful banter, Dong Xuebing asked the girl, "How should I address you?"

Fang Shuling, slightly reserved and shy, said, "My name is Fang Shuling. You can call me Xiao Ling."

Dong Xuebing pointed at Xie Ran, "You too. Why didn't you tell me earlier? It's our first meeting, and I haven't even prepared any gifts."

Xie Ran smiled, "No need, brother-in-law."

Fang Shuling quickly added, "Brother Dong, no need."

Other families might not have much fuss, but Dong Xuebing paid particular attention. Since Xie Ran brought his girlfriend over, it was almost certain. Xie Ran, the third-generation leader of the Xie family, was a few years older than himself but still unmarried. His family had been somewhat anxious about Xie Ran's marriage, so many people paid attention to his relationship. Now that he saw the girl, Dong Xuebing, as the elder brother-in-law, had to show some courtesy. He patted his body and couldn't find anything to give. Finally, he took out his wallet, pulled out a bank card, wrote the PIN on the back, and handed it to the girl, "Xiaoling, there's nothing much to give for the first meeting, so here's a card. It might be a bit tacky, but it's just a gesture. Take it."

Fang Shuling dared not accept, "Really, Brother Dong, I can't."

Xie Ran joked, "Brother-in-law, how much is on it?"

Dong Xuebing glared at him, "It's not for you to worry about. Probably a million. The PIN is on the back."

"A million?" Fang Shuling couldn't help but be stunned, "Oh, this won't do. It's too much, too much, I can't accept it."

But Xie Hao chuckled, took the bank card from Dong Xuebing's hand, and stuffed it into Fang Shuling's pocket, "Just take it if Brother-in-law wants you to. My brother-in-law has money to spare. He even said that if I could get into university, he'd buy me a million-dollar car." This kid was reminding Dong Xuebing that he would take the college entrance exam next year, reminding him not to forget the promise.

Dong Xuebing couldn't laugh or cry and gave him a smack on the back of his head, "You brat."

Fang Shuling felt it was inappropriate and looked at Xie Ran, "Brother Ran."

Xie Ran wasn't polite either, "It's from my brother-in-law, so just accept it." freewebnovel.com

Fang Shuling bit her lip and said to Dong Xuebing, "Thank you, Brother Dong."

Xie Hao was enthusiastic and had much to say to his future sister-in-law.

But Dong Xuebing noticed something was off. While Xie Jing's expression didn't show much, she didn't say much to Fang Shuling. She seemed calm, which made Dong Xuebing feel something was wrong. According to his understanding of Xie Jing's character, she shouldn't be like this. If her brother had a girlfriend, she should be the most talkative. Why did it seem like she did not react at all now?

Chapter 1649

Morning.

In the courtyard.

It was still early before mealtime, so Dong Xuebing invited them to sit on the stone benches under the Chinese toon tree. The air outside was good, so they didn't go inside.

"How old is Xiao Ling?" Dong Xuebing asked.

Fang Shuling replied, "She's twenty-five this year."

Dong Xuebing blinked and asked, "What job does she have?" "She doesn't have a job yet," Fang Shuling said softly. "She's currently studying."

Xie Ran didn't want his brother-in-law to look down on his girlfriend, so he added, "She's about to finish her Ph.D."

"Oh, a Ph.D. at just twenty-five?" Dong Xuebing looked at her and asked, "Did she study in China?"

Fang Shuling nodded, "My family wanted me to study abroad, but I didn't go. I always felt that China is better."

Dong Xuebing suddenly slapped the table, startling several of them, "Well said! That's how it should be. Listening to them talk about how great foreign countries are, it's nonsense. What's good about foreign countries? There's chaos and racial discrimination. They look down on us, yet we still go there with our heads held high. Screw them! Who's better than who? Xiao Ling has a high level of ideological awareness. She's right to focus on studying and developing in China!"

Fang Shuling was surprised by Xie Ran's brother-in-law's strong reaction.

However, Xie Jing was relatively objective, "Actually, most people study abroad mainly for the educational resources. It must be acknowledged that some disciplines and teaching methods abroad are stronger than those in China. But it's not blind worship of foreign countries. Most international students still want to return to China for development."

Dong Xuebing looked at her and said unhappily, "Stronger than us? Foreigners are just deceivers. You think they're treasures."

Xie Jing was speechless, "I'm just making an objective evaluation."

Dong Xuebing snorted, "I've seen you working at Xinhua News Agency these years, and you haven't learned anything. You still talk like this. Your ideological awareness is far inferior to Xiao Ling's."

Xie Jing replied, "I won't argue with you."

Fang Shuling hurriedly intervened, "Both of you have valid points."

Dong Xuebing also glanced at her, "There's no reason to worship foreign things. I also use foreign things, like phones, computers, and I watch foreign TV dramas, American dramas, Japanese dramas. I can even accept some foreign ideologies but only accept them. I never take pride in it!"

Xie Jing argued, "I'm not proud of it either."

Xie Hao waved his hand, "Stop, stop. Our brother-in-law is the most radical of radicals. You all know that."

Seventy percent of Beijingers are radicals, and Dong Xuebing is no exception, especially in his work over the years. He has had plenty of dealings with foreigners, fought with them, broken into museums, stolen artifacts, and stormed into America's research institutes. Even his daughter has been kidnapped by pirates, and his mother has been hit by a foreigner's car and almost died. Several incidents have accumulated, making Dong Xuebing completely biased against foreigners, regardless of who says how good they are. Dong Xuebing doesn't care. He's the kind of person who will turn his face and refuse to recognize people!

That's his stubborn temper!

Xie Jing and Xie Hao have long understood!

So, seeing his brother-in-law being so unreasonable, Xie Jing could only smile bitterly and say, "Alright, alright. You're right. I can't argue with you anyway."

Dong Xuebing said, "I'm right in the first place."

Xie Jing snorted, "You're just bullying me. I'll go tell my sister about you later."

Dong Xuebing shrugged, "The truth is right here. It's useless no matter who says what. It's right here."

Xie Ran pulled his sister aside and whispered, "Come on, you know your brother-in-law's temper."

Indeed, Dong Xuebing always insisted on his reasoning; no matter what others said, he would never listen. In Beijing slang, this is "arguing for the sake of arguing."

Seeing his sister pouting, Dong Xuebing said nothing further. "Let's change the subject, Xiao Ling. What would you like to eat for lunch?"

Fang Shuling shyly replied, "Whatever you say, Brother Dong."

Dong Xuebing said, "Don't listen to me. What do you like to eat?"

Fang Shuling replied, "I like everything. I'm not particularly picky."

Xie Ran interjected, "Just make something simple. Let Xiao Ling sit down, and I'll help out. She can cook, too."

"No, I'll cook today." Dong Xuebing was not only worried about their cooking skills, but also, as Fang Shuling was visiting their home for the first time as Xie Ran's girlfriend, he couldn't let her do the cooking. It was a matter of hospitality. "Don't worry about it. I'll handle it, and Xiao Jing will assist me."

Xie Jing huffed, "I'm not going."

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Dong Xuebing chuckled, "What's wrong? Are you angry?"

"Just after you criticized me, you expect me to help? No way." Xie Jing said playfully, but it was mostly a joke.

Xie Hao volunteered, "I'll do it, I'll help! Haha, but there's a condition: brother-in-law, you have to buy me a car in advance. This winter vacation, I'll turn eighteen anyway!"

Dong Xuebing patted his head, "Go away. You're everywhere. Let me handle it. Don't even bother with this meal. You can't even wash vegetables properly."

Xie Hao exclaimed, "You don't trust me! It's impossible! I'll wash them for you to see. But you have to get me a car this winter vacation!"

Dong Xuebing bluntly said, "Forget it."

Fang Shuling immediately said, "I'll assist you."

Xie Jing glanced at Fang Shuling and said, "I'll do it."

"Xiao Jing, it's not necessary." Fang Shuling seemed to want to show some respect.

Xie Jing didn't say anything. She just stood up and followed Dong Xuebing.

Seeing his sister's lukewarm attitude towards his girlfriend, Xie Ran wasn't too happy either. He gave his sister a stern look, implying she should be nicer.

But Xie Jing pretended not to see and said, "Let's go, brother-in-law."

Xie Ran had no choice. He couldn't argue with his sister, as he had always been very fond of her.

However, Fang Shuling didn't mind and even wanted to go to the kitchen together. Ultimately, Dong Xuebing pushes her back and doesn't let her busy herself.

...

In the southern room.

In the small kitchen.

Xie Jing entered first, followed by Dong Xuebing, who closed the door after seeing Xie Ran consoling Fang Shuling outside. It was suddenly dark inside.

Xie Jing was puzzled, "Why did you close the door?"

Dong Xuebing turned on the light, "Let's talk, what's going on?"

"What do you mean?" Xie Jing blinked, picked up some vegetables, and started washing them.

Dong Xuebing looked at her and said, "Your brother finally has a girlfriend, and you didn't show any reaction. You were indifferent. The family is already urging your brother about his marriage. Isn't this a good thing? From Xiao Ling's accent, she should also be from Beijing, right? Are you looking down on her family background? Do you think she's not good enough for your brother? Look, you and Sun Kai also started your relationship like this. You're fine with it, but your brother can't? I'm not criticizing you, Xiao Jing, but you're completely unreasonable."

Xie Jing remained silent.

Dong Xuebing continued, "Say something."

"What do you want me to say?" Xie Jing became frustrated.

Dong Xuebing chuckled, "Look, are you feeling guilty?"

Xie Jing couldn't help but say, "It's not what you think. Am I such a superficial person? Is Fang Shuling's family background not good enough? No! It's because her family background is too good!"

Dong Xuebing was taken aback, "What do you mean?"

Xie Jing smiled bitterly, "Do you know who her grandfather is? He's still serving in the State Council. Just think about which family has the surname Fang."

"Fang? The surname Fang?" Dong Xuebing pondered momentarily, then suddenly exclaimed, "The Premier?" Being in the system, he had heard of the top leaders even if he hadn't had much contact with them. Moreover, he often followed the news. How could he not know? When Xie Jing mentioned it, Dong Xuebing immediately thought of one person - Fang, the nominal third in command of the country and the actual second in command of the State Council!

Xie Jing nodded, "That's her grandfather."

Dong Xuebing was astonished, "From the Fang family?"

The Fang family, just like the Xie family, held a similar status. Their influence in the Republic could rank in the top five. Although they might not be as brilliant as the Xie family, the Fang family was not far behind. Even more direct relatives held essential government positions than the Xie family. Their influence might be slightly less than that of the Xie family. Still, now that Xie's father had retired, and because Fang Shuling's grandfather had risen to the second highest position during the last reshuffle, surpassing the highest rank of the Xie family, the Fang family was a bit higher. Overall, the Fang and Xie families were basically on the same level, almost equal, and considered a good match.

Dong Xuebing was puzzled, "Isn't this a good thing? Both of them have feelings for each other. Shouldn't it be a free love? Their families are well-matched. Isn't this marriage great?"

Xie Jing said, "What's good about it?"

"Why are you like this? What's wrong?" Dong Xuebing asked.

"You don't pay attention to these things and don't understand the situation at all," Xie Jing said helplessly. "If it's good, why has my brother hesitated to tell the family about his relationship? Why hasn't he brought Fang Shuling home? Why can he only come to your house? It's all done secretly! I

didn't even know my brother was in a relationship before this. Would my brother be like this if it were such a big deal?"

Dong Xuebing couldn't care less about cooking now. "Stop beating around the bush. Just tell me."

Xie Jing paused momentarily before reluctantly saying, "The Fang family and our family... are arch-enemies. They've been fighting for many years, basically mortal enemies."

Dong Xuebing exclaimed, "Is that so?"

He had only been married to Huilan for a little over a year, so he knew little about the Xie family's history. Of course, with Dong Xuebing's personality, he hadn't planned to learn about it before. Huilan also didn't like to boast, so Dong Xuebing naturally didn't know.

"This is a long story," Xie Jing said.

Dong Xuebing wasn't in a hurry. "Take your time. Let's talk while we cook."

Chapter 1650

Morning. Love shines brightly. In the small kitchen.

After closing the door, Dong Xuebing and Xie Jing started washing and cutting vegetables while talking.

"I don't know much," Xie Jing sighed. I've only heard my parents mention it occasionally, so I know only the surface."

Dong Xuebing picked up the knife to chop vegetables, "Go ahead."

Xie Jing said, "I heard that our grandfather and Fang Shuling's grandfather were leaders at the same level, both holding high positions. However, Fang Shuling's grandfather is about nine or ten years younger. Being young is an advantage. At that time, he was highly regarded by many people and was also considered a strong candidate for promotion to several leadership positions. However, as you know, our grandfather became the General Secretary, and due to some conflicts, he suppressed Fang Shuling's grandfather for nearly a decade. Even after our grandfather retired, Fang Shuling's grandfather was relatively younger, which allowed him to advance further. This resulted in a situation where the Fang and our family fought for many years. It started from the top and reached the bottom, almost becoming an endless hatred. The Fang family is our family's biggest political enemy and obstacle. For example, when my father was at the deputy minister level, he was once targeted by the Fang family, which almost prevented him from being promoted. It almost delayed my father's promotion for four years. Ultimately, our family resolved it, but my father still didn't get the position he wanted. He could only settle for a lower-ranking promotion. There are many incidents like this. Of course, our family has also obstructed the Fang family. It's been a fierce battle involving officials with some level of authority. Everyone knows that the Xie family and the Fang family are sworn enemies. The feud started from our grandfathers' generation and has been going on for more than twenty years."

Dong Xuebing exclaimed, "No wonder you have this attitude towards Shuling. I didn't know about all these things."

Xie Jing said, "I'm not a petty person. I know that the grudges between the elders have nothing to do with the younger generation. I won't let my emotions affect Shuling. But my brother is the future

leader of our family's third generation. He represents the Xie family. And Shuling is the granddaughter of the Fang family, not some peripheral figure, but a direct relative. My brother can't marry her due to the enmity between the two families over the years."

However, Dong Xuebing was very open-minded, "You can't say that for sure."

Xie Jing disagreed, "Do you think our grandfather, with his temper, would agree? Definitely not. Do you think my parents would agree? Definitely not. Even if our family agrees to my brother's free love, what can the Fang family do? Can they send their beloved granddaughter to marry into our family? It's simply not feasible."

Dong Xuebing smiled, "Isn't it almost the same as you and Sun Kai?"

Xie Jing argued, "That's different. Sun Kai doesn't have a feud with our family. And besides, I'm not a man. My marriage won't affect our family's future political situation. I can marry whoever I want. Our family doesn't rely on me, a female comrade, to support it. But my brother is different."

Dong Xuebing waved his hand, "What's wrong with being a female comrade? It's the modern age. You still have feudal thoughts. Men and women are equal. Isn't your elder sister also a female comrade?"

Xie Jing felt helpless, "How can I compare to my sister? She's a special case. She's much more capable than men. Of course, she can bear the responsibility of the family. But I'm just mediocre. That's why my marriage to Sun Kai didn't face such strong opposition from my family. But my brother..."

Dong Xuebing criticized, "You're applying a double standard." [current novels on frēewebnovēl.com](http://currentnovels.com).

Xie Jing looked at her brother-in-law, "The greater the ability, the greater the responsibility."

"Not only is it a double standard, but it's also an attempt to shift responsibility," Dong Xuebing criticized bluntly, "I'm not scolding you, but..."

Xie Jing interrupted, "Alright, you don't have to criticize me anymore. It's my fault. I won't say anything anymore. I didn't say anything, did I? If I don't want to talk, can't I? If I don't like her, can't I? Do I have to force myself to be enthusiastic towards her? Do I have to force myself to be attentive to her?"

Dong Xuebing pointed at her with a smile, "Look at you, getting impatient."

"I'm not impatient," Xie Jing said, lowering her head to wash the vegetables herself.

"Alright, let's not talk about it anymore," Dong Xuebing also found it helpless. Today, Xiao Jing's mood was not good, so he decided not to scold her anymore.

To be honest, this matter was indeed challenging to handle.

The marriage between two families with deep-seated enmity wasn't feasible in Dong Xuebing's opinion.

Some of what Xie Jing said was right; neither family would likely agree.

But Dong Xuebing couldn't control this situation, and he didn't intend to. So, after thinking about it, he stopped worrying about it. Xie Ran brought his girlfriend over, and as the elder brother-in-law,

Dong Xuebing gave the girl a million RMB as a meeting gift. That was enough. The formalities were observed, which gave Xiao Ran face. He didn't plan to meddle in anything else.

Just as he was about to start cooking, there was a knock on the kitchen door.

Then, a graceful figure slowly walked in—it was Fang Shuling.

"Brother Dong, Xiao Jing, let me help you," Fang Shuling said, taking over the vegetables from Xie Jing's hands and washing them.

"No need," Xie Jing said.

"I'll do it," Fang Shuling insisted.

Dong Xuebing, fearing that Xie Jing would lose face, said, "Xiao Jing, why don't you go out for tea? Let Shuling help me."

Xie Jing responded with an "Oh" and left.

The kitchen was now only for Dong Xuebing and Fang Shuling.

Fang Shuling's movements were very skilled. She quickly finished washing the remaining vegetables and even helped Dong Xuebing chop them. It was hard to believe that she was the pampered granddaughter of the Fang family. Dong Xuebing glanced at her; his impression of her was pretty good. She was a young lady from a prestigious family, and her personality was charming.

While Dong Xuebing was observing her, Fang Shuling also secretly observed him.

Fang Shuling was especially curious about Xie Ran's elder brother-in-law. She knew Xie Huilan; she had seen her since she was young. Although their interactions were limited due to the feud between their families, Fang Shuling still knew much about Xie Huilan. She knew that not only was she several times more beautiful than herself, but she also surpassed almost all the scions of aristocratic families in terms of ability. In their circle, Xie Huilan had always been a highly regarded woman. Fang Shuling knew that many scions of prestigious families had proposed marriage to the Xie family, and Xie Huilan, a woman who shone brighter than herself, had received numerous proposals.

She was a beauty that could topple nations.

She was calm and dignified.

She had reached the City Party Committee Secretary position at a young age.

Not only was she an exceptional woman, but even those scions, those men with powerful backgrounds, couldn't match Xie Huilan's achievements. Some of them didn't even have half of her achievements.

She was such a perfect woman.

She was a woman Fang Shuling didn't dare to envy.

But in the end, Xie Huilan married the seemingly unremarkable young man in front of her, who was the same age as herself.

To tell the truth, when Fang Shuling first saw Dong Xuebing, she was astonished. She had many images and ideas about Xie Xie Huilan's husband, but Dong Xuebing completely overturned her thoughts. He didn't match the image she had imagined at all. Fang Shuling found it hard to believe why such a perfect woman, who had almost enchanted all the scions of prestigious families, would choose such a man.

Fang Shuling didn't look down on Dong Xuebing; she couldn't understand it. Like everyone else, she was puzzled about what was happening in this world.

Splashes.

Sizzles.

Droplets of oil fly.

As Dong Xuebing, cooking the vegetables, suddenly glanced at her, he met Fang Shuling's curious gaze. Dong Xuebing couldn't help but smile, "What's up? Why are you looking at me like that?"

Fang Shuling's face flushed, "Just curious."

"What are you curious about?" Dong Xuebing touched his face, not feeling anything unusual, and chuckled, "Is it that I'm not as handsome as you imagined?"

Fang Shuling hurriedly said, "No, not at all."

Dong Xuebing sighed, "It's just the way it is, it's natural. I'm definitely not as good-looking as your brother, Xie Ran. I've been jealous of that kid's face for a long time."

Fang Shuling immediately said, "But Brother Ran is not as good as you. I know about your abilities."

Dong Xuebing blinked his eyes, surprised that she knew him. When did his reputation become so widespread among his peers?

Others might not have even heard of Dong Xuebing's name because they weren't at the same level and didn't have the channels to hear about him. But Fang Shuling, as the granddaughter of the Fang family, naturally knew about Xie Huilan's husband. Although she knew little about him and wasn't very clear about it, she still had heard of Dong Xuebing's name. She knew that Dong Xuebing had once confronted Senior Xie about marrying Xie Huilan and even got into a heated argument. There was even a time when they got drunk together, slung their arms around each other, and called each other brothers. She also knew that Dong Xuebing had once risked his life to disarm a bomb strapped to Xie Huilan's body. There were also rumors about his exceptional work abilities. She didn't know much about Dong Xuebing; she believed others were the same. Most people were more interested in Xie Ran or even Xie Hao. After all, Dong Xuebing was just a son-in-law of the Xie family, not their son. Fang Shuling's understanding of Dong Xuebing mostly came from Xie Ran.

Ordinary appearance.

Huge fortune.

Generous with money.

Bad temper.

Foul-mouthed.

Such a person, unexpectedly, was a leader in the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection at only twenty-five or twenty-six years old.

Such a person managed to marry a perfect woman like Xie Huilan.

Fang Shuling's mind was not enough to comprehend it all. The scenes she saw, heard, and knew, when put together, didn't help her understand what kind of person Dong Xuebing was.

But it couldn't be denied that he was a legendary figure.