

PAW 1691

Chapter 1691

Afternoon.

Off work.

Dong Xuebing, who had already received his appointment letter, packed up cheerfully and pushed the door open with great delight.

"Director Dong."

"Are you off work?"

"Congratulations."

"Are you going to treat us?"

As soon as they saw him coming out, everyone congratulated him.

Everyone had heard about Dong Xuebing's promotion.

Dong Xuebing smiled and said, "Thank you, I'll treat you all. What do you want to eat? I'll treat you today."

Over there, Yin Cheng'an and Chen Dayou also came out of the office. It was probably unexpected for both of them that Dong Xuebing would be promoted. After all, Dong Xuebing had only been in the Second Office for a short while, just three months, and before his seat even warmed up, he was already leaving. They didn't expect it.

But Yin Cheng'an still smiled and said, "What's up? You're having a meal and not inviting me and Old Chen?"

Dong Xuebing laughed, "How could that be? I just mentioned having a meal. I was just about to go to your office to invite you two. You must come."

Yin Cheng'an said, "That's for sure."

Dong Xuebing glanced at Chen Dayou. He had been here for so many days and hadn't eaten with Old Chen yet. This was a serious cadre. "Director Chen?"

Chen Dayou thought for a moment, "... Alright."

Dong Xuebing said, "So where should we eat?"

"You're treating, you decide." Yin Cheng'an said, "I'll eat anything. I'm not picky, haha."

Han Fei chuckled, "I'm okay with anything too, but of course, the more expensive, the better. I know Director Dong doesn't lack money."

He Zhou laughed, "We didn't ask you."

Everyone laughed. Even Chen Dayou smiled.

This should be their last meal as colleagues in this department because Dong Xuebing received a transfer order and was going to a new department in a few days. During his time in the Second Supervisory Inspection Office of the Eighth Division, Dong Xuebing had a very good impression of

everyone, and the relationship between colleagues was very harmonious. Dong Xuebing was a bit reluctant to leave here. After all, he liked the atmosphere of this office. So now that he was leaving, Dong Xuebing wanted a good meal with everyone. He didn't say where to go, but he already had an idea in his mind.

...

After six o'clock.

Outside the Wangfu Hotel.

Two cars drove into the parking lot, and everyone realized that Dong Xuebing would treat them there. They couldn't help but say a few words.

"Director Dong, are you sure about going to the Wangfu?" Yin Cheng'an asked.

Dong Xuebing said, "I just called to reserve a private room."

Chen Dayou felt it was inappropriate, "Isn't this place a bit expensive? There are a few good restaurants nearby."

Dong Xuebing joked, "It's okay, just don't order expensive dishes. If it's not enough, I'll stay behind to wash dishes and settle the bill for them, hehe."

Han Fei joked, "Director Chen, Director Dong has been promoted today. Let's not be polite with Director Dong anymore." After saying that, she pointed to the Land Rover, "With Director Dong's car, just one of the wheels can cover the cost of several meals at the Wangfu Hotel. Let's enjoy ourselves today. Hehe."

Sun Zhaobang laughed, "You're not polite."

"Then what's the use of being polite?" Han Fei said, "If we're too polite, it's like looking down on Director Dong. We have to pick expensive dishes to give face to Director Dong!"

Dong Xuebing pointed at her, "Are you trying to flatter me? It's okay, order whatever you want. Today, I'm going all out. If I run out of money this month, I'll go to Little Han's house for meals!"

Everyone joked as they walked inside.

Today, there are a lot of people, and many of them are gradually entering.

Dong Xuebing and his group also entered through the main entrance and walked into the lobby. As soon as they entered, Dong Xuebing and the others saw several waiters and a man in a suit standing at the door, apparently waiting for someone. At first, no one paid attention, and they walked in directly, but the next moment, they saw those people walking towards them.

The man in the suit walked up to Dong Xuebing politely and asked, "Excuse me, are you, Mr. Dong?"

"Yes, that's me." Dong Xuebing wasn't surprised. It seemed that every time he came here, someone from the Wangfu Hotel would come to greet him, especially since this time, he had called in advance to reserve a private room.

The middle-aged man hurriedly extended both hands to shake his, "Hello, hello, the private room is ready. We've been waiting for you for a long time. Please, this way."

Dong Xuebing said, "Please, don't be so polite."

The middle-aged man explained again, "The manager is not here today, so he asked me to come and greet the distinguished guests. Please forgive us for the lack of hospitality."

Dong Xuebing smiled and said, "Don't be too polite, okay? Every time I come, you all do this, making me afraid to come here anymore."

The middle-aged man smiled and said, "The manager just called and said that you haven't been here for a long time. He thought there might be some shortcomings in our service or cuisine. If the food is not good sometimes, just let us know, and we'll improve immediately."

Dong Xuebing said, "Everything's fine. If the food here isn't good, there's nowhere good to eat in the city. Let's go."

"Alright, please follow me." The middle-aged man led the way.

Chen Dayou, Han Fei, He Zhou, and others were stunned.

After so many incidents, everyone knew that Dong Xuebing had a background, but they didn't expect Dong Xuebing to be so influential in Beijing. Even when dining at a grand place like the Wangfu Hotel, someone would come to greet him. They all glanced at each other and could see the surprise in each other's eyes, wondering who this seemingly suddenly disciplinary official was and why they didn't know anything about him. Could their status be so different? Otherwise, why hadn't they heard any news about Director Dong's background?...

Inside.

In the private room.

Everyone sat down, and the menu was brought over.

Originally, Dong Xuebing was supposed to order, but Dong Xuebing didn't order first. Instead, he insisted that Yin Cheng'an and then Chen Dayou order. He asked everyone to order one dish each, and everyone ordered relatively inexpensive dishes. Of course, what was considered inexpensive here was relative. Each dish was still quite expensive. When it was Han Fei's turn, she, who had been the most excited earlier, still ordered a cheap vegetarian dish. Dong Xuebing was helpless and didn't want to change the order, so he ordered three or four more expensive dishes, all of which were specialties of the Wangfu Hotel. In the end, he also ordered a bottle of Maotai that was several decades old.

Yin Cheng'an clicked his tongue and said, "This is too extravagant."

Dong Xuebing said, "It's okay. Today should be the last time I have dinner with everyone as colleagues in the same department. I want to thank everyone for their help and care all along. Ordering a few more dishes is nothing compared to that, right? Don't be so polite to me. It's like looking down on me!"

Han Fei was drooling, "Director Dong is the best."

Dong Xuebing smiled and said, "Alright, eat more later."

"Don't worry, there definitely won't be any leftovers. If there are, I'll pack them up!" Han Fei exclaimed cheerfully.

The dishes quickly arrived, hardly taking five minutes, and the wine followed suit, poured by the waiter into glasses for everyone.

Dong Xuebing said to the waiter, "That's all, thank you."

"Enjoy your meal, everyone." The waiter then left.

Usually, a waiter was present throughout the meal in this kind of private room. However, Dong Xuebing wasn't used to having outsiders around, and since they all had special identities as cadres, he asked the waiter to leave so they could enjoy their meal comfortably.

Han Fei was slightly surprised and said, "I came here with my dad once before, but the food took so long to arrive. It was within half an hour. Now it's only been five minutes? Isn't that too fast?"

Yin Cheng'an chuckled, "Our Director Dong has face."

Dong Xuebing hurriedly said, "No, it's not. Maybe there are fewer people today."

He raised his glass and said, "To Director Yin, let me toast you first."

Yin Cheng'an also stood up and said, "Don't be so formal. You've been appointed Director of the Second Division in the new department, and now we're peers. I can't afford your respect. Let's not toast each other. Let's drink together."

Dong Xuebing insisted, "No, I haven't even started working in the new department yet. You have been my leader from the day I joined. I have to toast you first."

Yin Cheng'an had no choice but to clink glasses with him. The cups weren't big, just about 80 milliliters, and he gulped it all down in one go.

Then, everyone raised their glasses and clinked together.

"You guys drink. I'll start eating first." Han Fei couldn't wait any longer and took a bite with her chopsticks then her face lit up, "It's delicious!"

Dong Xuebing also invited, "Everyone, please eat."

The food here was very good, and the prices were there to see.

"Director Dong, let me pick some meat for you." Han Fei suddenly stopped eating and enthusiastically picked up a piece for Dong Xuebing, then another, almost filling Dong Xuebing's bowl. Finally, when she saw that Dong Xuebing's empty glass, she filled it up with Maotai, "Thank you for inviting us to dinner. I'll also toast you. Congratulations on your promotion."

Dong Xuebing smiled and clinked glasses with her, "Thank you, cheers."

Han Fei might not have been able to drink much, but she still forced herself to swallow it down. Then, she continued to drink juice with her tongue out, making cute gestures.

Dong Xuebing said, "You don't have to drink."

Han Fei exhaled and said, "I have to. Director Dong's face must be given, and since you've already drunk, I have no reason not to take a sip."

He Zhou and Sun Zhaobang smiled at each other when they saw Han Fei's attitude toward Director Dong. They knew what Han Fei was thinking. Since Dong Xuebing was appointed Director of the Second Division in the Ninth Office, they also wanted to follow him there. They didn't know there

would be changes in Dong Xuebing's transfer until now, so they naturally wanted to make a good impression. Han Fei had been eyeing the position of deputy division chief for a long time.

Dong Xuebing saw through it all, clear as a mirror in his heart. He had already made his plans before the transfer. He had thought it through a long time ago.

Chapter 1692

Three Days Later

Morning, at the Office

Today was Dong Xuebing's first official day in his new position. After driving to the building, he strode into the office complex. The location was still the same two buildings, but two new departments had been added. Two floors had been vacated for these new departments, displacing the previous occupants to other areas, so the office location hadn't changed. Upon entering, he encountered many familiar faces.

"You're here!"

"Director Dong."

"Good morning."

Dong Xuebing greeted everyone and then headed to his new office area. Pushing open the door to the second Office, he found it empty except for a cleaning lady who smiled at him. He chatted with her briefly before entering his own office. The room was large, spacious, and well-lit, with a windowsill full of plants. The previous occupant likely left these behind. Due to the winter season and the recent office adjustments, most plants were wilting except for a green clivia. Despite this, Dong Xuebing was very satisfied with the environment. The department director's office was a significant upgrade from that of a regular inspector at the same level. Every aspect was a step up, and he couldn't be more pleased. Securing this position so early was the biggest surprise for him.

Inside the Office

Dong Xuebing walked around a few times before happily sitting down. He turned on his computer, placed his bag down, leisurely made a cup of tea, and took a few sips with a contented expression.

Getting promoted was indeed a day worth celebrating. However, if there was one small regret, it was the appointment of their new director for the Ninth Office. Every time he thought about it, Dong Xuebing felt a bit annoyed.

"Why her?"

"This woman is still at odds with me."

The phone on the desk rang.

Dong Xuebing picked it up, "Hello, this is the Second Section of the Ninth Supervision Office."

Fang Wenping's cold, stern voice said, "Come to my office immediately."

Before he could respond, the call ended with a beep. Dong Xuebing snorted but had no choice. After all, she was the newly appointed director of the Ninth Office. Now that Fang Wenping was his direct supervisor, Dong Xuebing couldn't treat her with the same disregard as before. Previously, their positions didn't overlap, so he could afford to argue with her. But now, they were truly in a

superior-subordinate relationship, and the bureaucracy, this was a sensitive matter. Dong Xuebing had to be mindful of the implications. Moreover, he had just been promoted and was in a good mood, with no desire to continue the quarrel with Fang Wenping. So, he stood up and left his office.

At the End of the Hallway

Dong Xuebing knocked on the director's office door.

"Come in," Fang Wenping said coldly from inside.

Dong Xuebing walked in with a less-than-friendly expression, "You called for me?"

"Close the door and find a seat," Fang Wenping said blandly as she sorted the documents on her desk. After a while, she looked at Dong Xuebing, who had already sat down. "Today is the first day the department is established, and the staff hasn't been adjusted yet, so we are still 'bare commanders.' I have already talked to the heads of several other sections. The higher-ups want to respect the attitudes of department leaders before making personnel allocations. This is to ensure a smooth transition and quick commencement of work. Your transfer order has been in place for a few days, so you should have some ideas. Tell me, if there are any competent colleagues you'd like to have transferred here, I will consider your nominations within certain limits."

Surprisingly, the two did not argue this time. Their conversation remained strictly professional.

This was exactly what Dong Xuebing wanted to see. Now that you're my supervisor, if you don't provoke me, then there's no issue. But if you do, I, Dong Xuebing, am not someone to be trifled with. I don't care what kind of leader you are; if it comes to that, don't blame me for not recognizing you. "I have a few nominations."

Fang Wenping didn't even look at him, continuing to review a document, seemingly familiarizing herself with the new job. "Although you're the only one in the second section right now, many adjustments have been made. It's just a matter of them reporting to you. There are still about two more positions."

Dong Xuebing nodded, thought momentarily, and said, "Han Fei has good work abilities. She's young, energetic, and has worked well with me. I think it's appropriate to transfer Xiao Han over. She's been at the eighth division's second office for many years, so maybe it's time to consider promoting her."

Fang Wenping glanced at him, put down what she was holding, and took out a notebook to jot it down. "Whether she gets promoted or not isn't your concern. I have my plans. Just tell me the people."

Dong Xuebing felt slightly unhappy but said, "Han Fei from the eighth section."

Fang Wenping nonchalantly acknowledged, "Anyone else?"

Dong Xuebing had his reasons for choosing Han Fei. Firstly, Han Fei had expressed a desire for this role and had long been hoping for a deputy director position. Her qualifications were just about right for a promotion. By recommending her, Han Fei would certainly appreciate it. Secondly, Han Fei's father held a significant position as the Director of the Second Bureau of the Organization Department, a very influential role. Dong Xuebing wasn't being opportunistic, but given equal circumstances, he would prefer to have Han Fei by his side. Thirdly, Han Fei was a pleasant-looking

young woman. Compared to a burly man, Dong Xuebing found a lively, cheerful young woman more visually pleasing.

As for the second nomination...

Dong Xuebing hesitated momentarily, "Can we include local disciplinary inspection cadres?"

Fang Wenping frowned slightly, "From where?"

Dong Xuebing replied, "Luo Haiting, Director of the First Supervision Office of the Fengzhou City Commission for Discipline Inspection. She's in her forties, has strong work abilities, and is steady. I worked with her for a long time at the Fengzhou City Commission. If she could come over to assist me, there wouldn't be much need for adjustment, and I'm confident in her work capabilities. I believe there won't be any obstacles."

Luo Haiting.

Dong Xuebing still felt guilty about the inexplicable incident with her before, so she was the first person he thought of. "If she could come over and work with me, it would be perfect." By saying "work with me," he meant having Luo Haiting as the deputy director of the second section. In the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, the deputy director of a section was equivalent to a high-level department director. Luo Haiting was currently a deputy Division Chief level cadre, so it would certainly be a significant promotion if she did come over.

Fang Wenping didn't respond, instead saying, "Alright, get to work."

Dong Xuebing glanced at her and then turned to leave, feeling that it should be settled.

Chapter 1693

Midday.

New Office.

Too many people were in the cafeteria, so Dong Xuebing didn't eat there. Instead, he returned his meal to his empty office area to eat alone, enjoying the quiet. Today's stir-fry from the second cafeteria was particularly good, with a generous amount of meat. Feeling fully satisfied, he belched twice, poured himself a cup of green tea, and drank it with a contented sigh. Leisurely, he pulled out a few documents to familiarize himself with his new job. In reality, there wasn't much new to learn; the work of the second section of the ninth division was nearly identical to that of the second section of the eighth division, with the only difference being the regions they monitored.

Ring, ring, ring.

The phone on the desk rang.

Dong Xuebing casually picked it up. "Hello, Ninth Division, Second Section."

At this point, Dong Xuebing was a one-man team; none of his subordinates had reported in yet, and some positions were undecided. Therefore, he had to handle everything himself.

"Is this Xiao Dong?" The voice on the other end was male.

Dong Xuebing found it familiar. "Yes, it's me. And you are?"

"This is Zhu Weiye." It was Zhu Weiye, the director of the eighth division.

Dong Xuebing realized who it was. “Director Zhu, hello. What can I do for you?”

Zhu Weiye said, “You’re now with the ninth division, so I can’t give you orders anymore. I just wanted to ask about something. I saw the personnel transfer nominations from the ninth division earlier. Why is Han Fei’s name on the list? Is she someone Director Fang wants, or did you request her?”

Dong Xuebing paused, then replied, “I requested her.”

Zhu Weiye said, “Let’s leave Xiao Han out of this. She’s still young and should continue gaining experience in the eighth division. We’ll arrange a good position for her in the future.” Usually, a division director wouldn’t need to call Dong Xuebing to say they weren’t releasing someone. A single directive would suffice. However, Zhu Weiye knew Dong Xuebing’s background and that Han Fei’s father was a significant figure. Thus, he made this call to convey that he didn’t want Han Fei to leave and would arrange something suitable for her when the time was right.

Sensing that Zhu Weiye was reluctant to let Han Fei go, Dong Xuebing wasn’t pleased. “Director Zhu, what I value about Xiao Han is her youth, energy, and drive. Our department is newly established, and I’m the only person here. We urgently need someone like Xiao Han to come here and make a difference. Your eighth division is well-established, with all aspects and various tasks running smoothly. Losing Xiao Han won’t hurt you much, but it’s a different story for us. I finally got to request someone; you can’t refuse me now.”

Zhu Weiye replied, “He Zhou from the second section is also excellent—competent and well-qualified.”

“He Zhou is indeed good,” Dong Xuebing said. “But we don’t have a position for him here. We can’t just transfer him laterally; he’s still a deputy Division Chief level inspector. I doubt Xiao He would be willing to come. Director Zhu, let’s respect Han Fei’s preference. She can stay if she doesn’t want to leave, and I won’t say a word. But if she wants to come, you must let her go.”

Zhu Weiye said, “You are something, huh? Just transferred, and you’re already poaching people.”

Dong Xuebing responded righteously, “It’s all for work, Director Zhu. I truly need Xiao Han here; we can’t manage without her.”

“I’ll talk to Xiao Han first.” With that, the call ended.

Dong Xuebing knew Zhu Weiye was unhappy. His promotion was partly due to the help of his mother-in-law and other family members, but Zhu Weiye was probably glad to see him go. Dong Xuebing was aware of his tendency to cause trouble, not just minor issues but big problems. Now that Zhu Weiye understood Dong Xuebing’s rebellious nature, he didn’t want to keep him around. There was always a risk that Dong Xuebing might cause a significant incident, potentially implicating Zhu Weiye. However, Han Fei was different. Although she had a bit of a fiery personality, she was generally well-behaved, popular, and didn’t cause big issues. Her father was also a significant figure in the Organization Department, making her an asset any leader would want. Dong Xuebing’s forceful demand for Han Fei was understandably frustrating for Zhu Weiye.

However, this situation was unique to Dong Xuebing. If any other department head had made such a request, Zhu Weiye would have refused outright without further discussion. However, because

Dong Xuebing insisted that only Han Fei would do it, the situation became more complicated. Additionally, Fang Wenping was potentially involved, who wasn't easy to deal with either.

Afternoon.

Eighth Division.

Han Fei had just returned to her office area after lunch with her colleagues when Yin Cheng'an walked out of his office and called, "Xiao Han, Director Zhu wants to see you."

Han Fei was surprised. "Which Director Zhu?"

Yin Cheng'an, seemingly in the know, said, "Which other Director Zhu in the Eighth Division? Go quickly. It's probably good news." Then he went back inside.

Outside.

He Zhou exclaimed, "Xiao Fei is getting promoted?"

Han Fei, surprised, replied, "Really? I haven't heard anything about it."

"Why else would the director want to see you? To chat?" Sun Zhaobang laughed. "It must be good news. We'll miss you if you go."

He Zhou sighed, "Yeah, the office will be dull without our cheerful one."

Han Fei, smiling, playfully scolded, "So you all just use me for amusement? Fine, fine, I'm going. Wait for my news." Though she appeared cheerful, she was pretty nervous inside. She had been eyeing a deputy section chief position for a long time. She knew there weren't immediate opportunities for her in the Eighth Division due to her lack of seniority. This adjustment was her only hope, so she couldn't help but feel anxious.

Upstairs.

Director's Office.

Han Fei knocked and entered. "Director."

Zhu Weiye looked at her, smiling warmly. "Have a seat."

"Okay." Han Fei nervously sat opposite him. "You wanted to see me?"

Zhu Weiye thought momentarily, then said, "I'll be direct. The Ninth Division wants you to transfer over. What do you think?"

Han Fei blinked, "I'll follow whatever the arrangement is."

Zhu Weiye said, "There's no arrangement yet. I wanted to hear your thoughts first."

"I..." Han Fei hesitated, then said, "I'd like to go."

Zhu Weiye sighed, knowing there was nothing more he could do. He shook his head slightly.

"You're aware that your current experience isn't enough. I had hoped to keep you in the Eighth Division to further develop your skills and experience before assigning you to a significant position in the future."

Han Fei quickly said, "Director Zhu, you've always looked after me since I joined the Eighth Division. I appreciate it."

Zhu Weiye laughed, "Sure, I can see how happy you are about this."

Han Fei quickly denied, "Not at all, Director Zhu. It's just that the Ninth and Tenth Divisions are newly established and need people. If I can contribute to them, that would be great. So..."

Zhu Weiye pointed at her, smiling, "You always know what to say. Alright, since you feel that way, you can go. Your exact position hasn't been decided yet, but it should be in the Ninth Division, Second Section. You might get a promotion, too. Someone from the relevant department will talk to you in the next couple of days. Be prepared."

Han Fei was stunned, "The Second Section of the Ninth Division? Director Dong's department?"

Dong Xuebing had never mentioned anything to Han Fei about this, nor had he given her any hints. She thought he didn't want her, ignoring her signals that she wanted to work with him. To her surprise, Dong Xuebing's section indeed wanted her.

Zhu Weiye, realizing there was no keeping Han Fei now that the decision had been made, figured he might as well show some goodwill toward Dong Xuebing. "Yes, it was Director Dong who requested you. He said he specifically wanted you and no one else. He values you highly."

Han Fei was visibly taken aback, clearly not expecting this.

"Alright, go back and prepare," Zhu Weiye said.

In truth, Zhu Weiye had known since seeing the Ninth Division's list that it would be tough to keep Han Fei. Aside from other considerations, dealing with her father could become problematic. It could create issues if someone else wanted Han Fei and offered her a promotion, but Zhu Weiye refused to let her go. Han Fei's father might take offense, and since Dong Xuebing specifically requested her and Han Fei wanted to leave, Zhu Weiye didn't have much choice. He wanted to convey to Han Fei that he wasn't neglecting her. If she stayed, he would have arranged a good position for her; it was just a matter of timing.

Han Fei thanked Zhu Weiye again before leaving.

Once outside, she called Dong Xuebing. "Hello, Director Dong. Thank you!"

Dong Xuebing immediately understood that Director Zhu had agreed. "No need to thank me. Come and report as soon as possible. There's a lot of work waiting for you here."

Han Fei replied, "Okay."

About half an hour later, Dong Xuebing received an unexpected call from Han Fei's father, Han Zhenghe. "Is this Dong Xuebing? This is Han Zhenghe."

Dong Xuebing was taken aback. "Hello, Director Han."

Han Zhenghe spoke slowly, "Xiao Fei will work in your department. I spoiled her as a child. Please don't feel obliged to give her any special treatment. Criticize her if needed, and don't hesitate to be strict." Despite his words, he wanted Dong Xuebing to look after Han Fei.

Dong Xuebing got the hint and replied, smiling, "There's no need for that. Xiao Fei is competent and well-behaved. I'm looking forward to her assistance."

Han Zhenghe said, "Come by our house for a meal sometime. My wife will cook for you."

"Sure," Dong Xuebing said, "I'll visit when I can."

Chapter 1694

Evening came.

The office hours ended.

In this gradually cooling season, the sky was almost halfway dark.

Dong Xuebing checked the time and packed his things. Before leaving, he called Fang Wenping to inquire about the transfer situation.

Han Fei's transfer was confirmed.

But there was still no news from Luo Haiting.

The call connected. "Hello, this is Dong Xuebing."

Fang Wenping responded indifferently, "What's up?"

Dong Xuebing asked, "I wanted to ask how Comrade Luo Haiting is doing."

"We're still in communication. It's complicated with many layers of approval," Fang Wenping responded firmly. "Don't ask me about these matters in the future. You'll know who's been decided in the end. Just follow the arrangements. I don't have time to babysit every one of you. Do you think I'm free? Our department is newly established, and there's a lot of work to be done. Focus on your work whenever you have time."

The line clicked off.

Dong Xuebing was annoyed. "Damn it, you're giving me attitude now. Forget it. I can't be bothered to argue with you. We'll talk later."

After considering, Dong Xuebing decided not to leave yet. He was worried about Luo Haiting's transfer. Knowing that Fang Wenping would ignore him, he followed up. As for Luo Haiting, Dong Xuebing's attitude towards her was the same as that of Han Fei; he must promote them both. Han Fei's situation was due to her father's position, providing multiple paths. Dong Xuebing also wanted to extend his interpersonal relationships. Regarding Luo Haiting, it was purely out of personal connections. Dong Xuebing enjoyed working with Luo. It was comfortable for him.

So Dong Xuebing called the Discipline Inspection Commission of Fenzhou City. Having worked there for a while, he naturally knew who to contact.

The Secretary of the Discipline Inspection Commission, He Suien.

He was still the top leader of the Discipline Inspection Commission in Fenzhou City.

He Suien had Dong Xuebing's number. When he picked up, He Suien's voice was calm, typical of a serious disciplinary officer. "Director Dong."

"This is Secretary He. Long time no see," Dong Xuebing greeted.

"Yeah, it's been a year. How have you been?" He Suien asked.

"It's been alright. I've recently been transferred to the Ninth Inspection Division," Dong Xuebing replied.

"I've heard about the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection's organizational restructuring. So now you're the head of a department?" He Suien inquired.

"Yeah, I'm currently the director of the Second section, although it's said to be the head. Right now, I'm the only one in the department. I'm even responsible for answering the phone calls. We're in urgent need of manpower," Dong Xuebing complained, then continued, "Secretary He, is Comrade Luo Haiting still in the Inspection Office?"

"She is. What's the matter?" He Suien asked.

"I want to transfer Old Luo over. The procedures are already underway and should be completed in the next couple of days. I hope you'll release her end of things," Dong Xuebing said.

He Suien pondered for a moment. "Old Luo is currently handling a very important case. It probably won't be possible in the short term. Maybe you should consider someone else."

"I've worked with Old Luo twice, and our cooperation has always been excellent. This time, with the restructuring of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, we urgently need people, and it's also a critical time. That's why I want to transfer Old Luo to help me," Dong Xuebing insisted. "Secretary He, anyone can handle the case. Although all aspects of organizational work are equally important, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection and the Municipal Discipline Inspection Commission cannot be said to be more urgent. But there's always a priority. I'm in a hurry here, with no one in the department. Can you give me this favor? I'll treat you to a big meal next time you're in Beijing. You can choose any restaurant you like. Can you prioritize Old Luo's situation? I hope Luo Haiting will come over in the next few days."

Praising a department or province's transfer has always been quite troublesome, especially considering the vast difference between the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection and the Discipline Inspection Commission of Fenzhou City. If the normal procedures were followed, each place would be delayed and deliberate. By then, someone else would have taken up the position of Deputy Director of the Second Division in the Ninth Bureau. There wouldn't have been a chance for Luo Haiting to come over. Since Dong Xuebing's relationship with Fang Wenping wasn't good, he couldn't rely on her, so he had to inform her himself.

After some contemplation, He Suien said, "I know Old Luo was promoted by you, and she used to be under your leadership. But this comrade's work ability is indeed good, and she has strong principles. After you leave, many complicated and troublesome cases handled by Luo Haiting's Inspection Office have been handled exceptionally well. I wouldn't want to let her go if you hadn't asked."

Dong Xuebing replied, "It's precisely because she is capable that she should be given more room to grow. I want to appoint Old Luo as the Deputy Director of the Second Section."

After silence, He Suien said, "Alright, I'll inform Old Luo. Since it's a promotion, I can't block her path."

"Thank you, Secretary He."

"Hehe, remember to treat me to a meal."

"No problem, just call me when you're in Beijing."

On the other end, Luo Haiting left the office relatively early today and had already left the unit. She had just finished a call with her son, asking him what he wanted to eat, and was now at the market buying groceries.

"Are these fresh?"

"Of course, just came in."

"How much per pound?"

"3.50 RMB."

"Alright, give me a slab."

Luo Haiting wasn't very satisfied with her current life. Although she had reached a position that others might envy for a lifetime in just a few years, you'll always be somewhat dissatisfied with the status quo once you get used to a certain lifestyle. She had been sitting as Director of the Inspection Office of the Discipline Inspection Commission for quite some time now, but there wasn't much to do every day. She worked, bought groceries, cooked, monitored her child's studies, worked, bought groceries, and cooked again. Sometimes, Luo Haiting didn't know what she was doing all day. She was a native of Fenzhou City and had lived and worked there all her life, but she didn't want to continue like this forever. She wanted a bigger stage, to move up another step. This was inherent in everyone's nature, and Luo Haiting was no exception. She was tired of her current life.

But what could she do?

Life still had to go on.

After leaving the market, Luo Haiting walked listlessly. But at that moment, her phone rang. Seeing the number, Luo Haiting immediately picked up. "Secretary He, the case is already being handled. Liu Yu's trial."

However, He Suien said, "Put Liu Yu's case on hold for now. I just received news that the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection has specifically requested you. It's in the next few days. Get ready."

Luo Haiting was stunned. "Ah, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection?"

"Your former leader has specifically requested you. I've confirmed it with the province. The procedures are already in progress, so there shouldn't be any issues," He Suien said.

Suppressing her surprise, Luo Haiting asked, "I'm going there?"

"You should be the Deputy Director of the Second Section in the Ninth Division, at the Division Chief level," He Suien replied.

Upon hearing this, Luo Haiting took a deep breath, feeling excited and looking forward to what was to come.

Chapter 1695

On this day, after resting for a few days, I was back to work on Monday. When Dong Xuebing drove into the unit, his mood remained slightly fluctuating. He arrived very early today, an hour ahead of schedule. He had been idle for so long, and today he could finally meet the new subordinate who was reporting. This was a significant event for him. Apart from Luo Haiting and

Han Fei, the two people he appointed, Dong Xuebing had no idea who else would come to the Second Division. Mainly because his relationship with the supervising leader, Fang Wenping, was somewhat sour. Neither of them wanted to deal with each other. Naturally, Dong Xuebing was a bit out of the loop.

Upstairs.

Ninth Division.

Second Section office area.

Dong Xuebing pushed open the door, expecting to see the same empty scene a few days ago. After all, it was only eight o'clock, still early for work. Generally, except for the cleaners and some staff, no one would come so early. However, when he entered the office area, Dong Xuebing was taken aback. Someone had arrived earlier than him, already cleaning and tidying up the office. It was a female comrade, not a cleaner, but a new face. She was wearing casual pants and a sweater, with a big and plump figure, and she was probably a mother, not young anymore.

"Who are you?" Dong Xuebing asked.

The woman turned around, revealing a face in her forties, not as well maintained as Zhang Longjuan or Xu Yan, but still not bad-looking. Her appearance was average, but her figure had many attractive points, and her temperament was decent. She looked very elegant. She immediately greeted Dong Xuebing with a smile, "You must be Director Dong. I'm Zhang Lili, transferred from the malpractices department." The malpractices department was merged with other departments, so some personnel had to be trimmed, and it was customary to transfer people.

Dong Xuebing suddenly realized, "Oh, you're the new colleague. Welcome, welcome."

Zhang Lili put down the cleaning cloth and handed the transfer order to Dong Xuebing, "Reporting to you, Director. I'll be under your command from now on. Please take care of me."

Deputy Division Chief level Inspectors

Also, a deputy at the Malpractices Department.

This time, it's a lateral transfer.

Dong Xuebing looked at it and smiled, "There's no need to be polite, Sister Zhang."

Zhang Lili hurriedly said, "I can't afford to be called 'sister,' just call me Old Zhang."

Dong Xuebing said, "Just pick any desk. You're the first one here, so choose your spot. Oh, and don't bother with cleaning. The cleaners will come soon."

Zhang Lili smiled, "It's okay. I'm just idle."

Dong Xuebing glanced at her and didn't say anything else. He let her tidy the room and returned to his office to put down his bag. It was clear that Comrade Zhang Lili was ambitious. Otherwise, she wouldn't have come so early to clean. She wanted to leave a good impression. Having ambition was a good thing. Dong Xuebing liked this kind of comrade the most because you knew what they cared about, which made communication easier and benefited the work. What Dong Xuebing feared most was someone like Chang Juan, who always wanted to slack off and had no desire for improvement, just coasting through life. Dong Xuebing felt powerless against someone like Chang Juan. If his office was full of people like her, he might as well not work. If everyone just followed orders

without any enthusiasm, who would he command? So, after a brief observation, Dong Xuebing had a good impression of Zhang Lili, the first to report. She was someone willing to do real work. As for her shortcomings, they were probably not small. Otherwise, the Discipline Inspection Commission wouldn't have kicked her to his department. Dong Xuebing didn't ask for personnel from them, but as they say, nobody's perfect. Moreover, just because Zhang Lili didn't perform well in their department, she couldn't perform well here with him. Many things depended on adjustment.

Just as Dong Xuebing settled in, he heard voices outside.

Since Dong Xuebing didn't close the door, he could hear quite clearly.

"Hey, Sister Zhang," a female voice sounded relatively young.

"Yeah, Xiaoli, you're here too?" This was Zhang Lili's voice.

The woman responded, "Mm-hmm," "I was just informed yesterday. It was quite sudden. Is your leader here? Should I report in?"

Zhang Lili replied, "Director Dong is here, inside."

"Okay, I'll go then." The footsteps approached slowly.

The next moment, Dong Xuebing saw a woman in her late twenties or early thirties, looking average. Compared to Luo Haiting, the beautiful woman, she was pretty ordinary. Even compared to Han Fei, she fell short. However, she had a pleasant and gentle demeanor, which was quite comfortable.

Knock, knock.

The woman also saw Dong Xuebing but still knocked on the open door following protocol. After seeing Dong Xuebing nod, she entered with her transfer order, neatly placing it on his desk, and introduced herself, "Hello, Director Dong. I'm Li Hong, transferred from the Third Supervisory Office."

A Section Chief.

Also, a lateral transfer

After Dong Xuebing glanced at it, he nodded, "Welcome."

Li Hong didn't say anything else; they just stood there.

Dong Xuebing could tell she was not much of a talker. However, as a new colleague, he had to communicate with her. He said, "It was sudden for you to be notified yesterday. I wouldn't have been able to adjust, either. But it's okay. We'll have plenty of opportunities to communicate in the future. If you encounter any difficulties or problems, just come to me directly. I'll help solve them if I can. Conversely, I hope everyone will work seriously in the future and focus on their work."

Li Hong replied, "Understood."

Dong Xuebing said, "Alright, just pick any desk and sit down. Regarding work, I'll hold a brief meeting after everyone arrives."

Li Hong said okay and then left.

Although Li Hong didn't talk much, Dong Xuebing's impression of her was still okay. Female comrades were more or less the same age as him, and as long as they weren't too problematic, Dong Xuebing generally didn't have a bad first impression. He had always been someone who valued women more than men. Dong Xuebing thought this wasn't entirely his fault. It mainly had to do with gender. As they say, opposites attract, which is the principle here.

At eight-twenty, Han Fei was the next to arrive.

Dong Xuebing was still in his office when he heard Han Fei's giggling laughter. As soon as she came in, she started chatting with Zhang Lili. After working in the same unit for so many years, they probably knew each other to some extent, even if they hadn't spoken before. For example, Li Hong and Zhang Lili knew each other, and Han Fei also seemed to interact with Zhang Lili. This time, Han Fei was promoted to deputy supervisor, the same rank as Zhang Lili, so it wasn't surprising that they were chatting. On the other hand, Li Hong remained as quiet as ever, exchanging greetings before falling silent.

After a while, Han Fei giggled as she walked into Dong Xuebing's office, "Director Dong, I'm here to report to you." With that, she handed him her transfer order.

Dong Xuebing took it and said, "Okay, work well from now on. I'm counting on you."

Han Fei smiled and said, "No problem. Wherever you point, I'll hit. Rest assured, I'll contribute to the Ninth Bureau and Second Section."

Dong Xuebing chuckled, "I'll be looking forward to it."

After that, Han Fei blinked and asked, "Has the deputy director arrived?"

Dong Xuebing checked the time. "Not yet, but I think they'll be here soon."

Han Fei asked, "Was the deputy director arranged from above or your choice?"

Dong Xuebing smiled, "She's someone who's been on my team for many years."

Han Fei understood. If Director Fang Wenping disagreed with Dong Xuebing's appointment of a deputy director, she would stand by Dong Xuebing's side to help him deal with political enemies. But now it seemed that the upper management had considered everything carefully. To ensure that the newly established department could start working as soon as possible, the selection of deputy heads was mostly done with the approval of the top leadership. This was the best scenario as it could temporarily set aside any political and internal conflicts that might arise, allowing everyone to focus on their work and fully form a fighting force.

"Go on then," Dong Xuebing said.

Han Fei asked, "Is my desk arranged?"

Dong Xuebing smiled and said, "Many departments have trimmed their staff, including our new department. Plus, with Old Luo not here yet, only five of us are in the entire Second Division for now. Plenty of desks are available, so sit wherever you like and find a place you're comfortable with."

"Got it," Han Fei replied and left.

It was around 8:40, just before the official start of work.

Outside, the sound of high heels could be heard, followed by a woman's voice, "Is this the Ninth Bureau, Second Section?"

"Yes," Zhang Lili replied. "Are you Director Luo? Hello, I'm Zhang Lili, a deputy division chief-level inspector. If you need anything, just let me know."

The woman smiled. "Hello, Director Zhang."

Zhang Lili said, "You're only a few years older than me. You can call me Old Zhang or Xiao Zhang."

"Hello, Director Luo," Han Fei also said. I'm Han Fei, also a deputy division chief-level inspector. Please take care of us. Oh, this is Li Hong."

"Hello, everyone. Today is my first day at the Commission for Discipline Inspection. I'll need your guidance," the woman said. "Is Director Dong here?"

"He's inside his office," Zhang Lili replied.

"Okay, I'll go in. Let's talk later," the woman said.

Then, a woman in a fiery red long dress appeared outside Dong Xuebing's office. It didn't feel like a long-awaited reunion after so long apart. Instead, Luo Haiting smiled, closed the door, and walked up. "Director Dong."

Dong Xuebing smiled. "I've been waiting for you. It must have been a long bus ride. Please have a seat."

"Yeah, it wasn't too long, just three hours. We got stuck in traffic for a bit, or I would have been here earlier," Luo Haiting said as she sat across from him.

Luo Haiting wasn't afraid of the cold at all. It was already winter, but she was still wearing such a colorful long dress, with only a pair of black stockings covering her thighs and revealing a lot of the top of her feet. She was really into beauty. However, Dong Xuebing liked it. He liked this kind of style, the kind that he could never get tired of looking at.

Chapter 1696

Inside the room.

It was almost nine o'clock.

Dong Xuebing got up to pour a cup of tea for Luo Haiqing, who sat there and placed it on her desk. Luo Haiqing was going to work with him this time. From a personal and professional standpoint, Dong Xuebing's attitude towards Luo Haiqing would differ from that towards Han Fei and Zhang Lili. They were both substantive deputy division chiefs in rank, but Dong Xuebing's position was one level higher than Luo Haiqing's.

"Have some tea," Dong Xuebing said.

Luo Haiqing slightly got up. "I can do it myself."

"How's it going with the work in the city? I heard from Secretary He that you have quite an important role there. But I need your help this time, so I had you transferred here," Dong Xuebing said.

Luo Haiqing glanced at him and said, "Work is going smoothly. Even without me there, they can carry on. I also wanted to come and help you. I have to thank you. I have been thinking about changing her work environment for a while, wanting a bigger stage for development. When I came to Beijing last time, I wanted to talk to you about it and ask if you could help me find a new place. But then I forgot about it and didn't bring it up, so who would have thought you were still thinking about it."

Dong Xuebing smiled. "There's no need to thank me."

Luo Haiqing said seriously, "I'm not just being polite. I have to thank you. If it weren't for you, I'd still be stuck in Yantai County's Investment Promotion Bureau, and I wouldn't have been able to come to such a big department in my lifetime. Over the past few years, I've been promoted almost every year, all thanks to your support. I understand that."

Luo Haiqing's promotion over the past few years has been very smooth. She went from being a deputy section chief to a division chief in less than three years. If we were to talk about the promotion speed, Dong Xuebing probably wouldn't compare to her. After all, Luo Haiqing jumped directly from the City Commission for Discipline Inspection Office to being the Deputy Section Chief of the Ninth Office's Second Section. At the same time, Dong Xuebing had transitioned from being an executive deputy county magistrate in a poverty-stricken county. But then again, Dong Xuebing was much younger, and his qualifications were not as solid, so he needed constant job adjustments and even opportunistic moves to move up. After all, he was only in his twenties. But Luo Haiqing didn't need that. She was already a seasoned cadre in her forties with solid qualifications. So, her transition was much smoother.

"No need to thank me. We've been old friends for many years. Besides, I wanted you to help me. I'm counting on you to shine," Dong Xuebing said, then suddenly reached out his hand. "Luo Haiqing, Yantai County Investment Promotion Bureau once, and the Fen State Commission for Discipline Inspection once. Let's count this time as our third time working together. I'm a bit impulsive, and my temper isn't very good. I'll need you to support me in the future."

Luo Haiqing also shook hands with him. "Look at what you're saying. Everyone knows about your abilities at work. If anyone needs support, it's you supporting Sister. I'm new here and don't know anything. This time, Sister is here with the purpose of learning. I'll learn a lot from you."

"You're too flattering," Dong Xuebing said.

"I'm just speaking the truth," Luo Haiqing laughed.

Checking the time, it was exactly nine o'clock. Dong Xuebing said, "It's time to start work. Your office is next to mine, but let's have a quick meeting first."

Luo Haiqing quickly got into work mode. "I'll let them know where to meet."

"Alright, just use the open office area," Dong Xuebing said.

"Okay, I'll let them know," Luo Haiqing replied, picking up her luggage to leave.

But Dong Xuebing stopped her. "Wait a moment." He rummaged through a drawer, took out a few keys, and handed them to her. "Almost forgot. Here are the keys to your residential compound. I've had your house prepared for you. You can go back and take a look tonight. Let me know if you need anything, and I'll prepare it for you."

Luo Haiqing smiled. "Thank you."

"Then that's settled," Dong Xuebing said.

About ten minutes later, Dong Xuebing came out of his office.

Everyone stood up straight, and Luo Haiqing also walked out of her office and stood with the others.

Dong Xuebing glanced at them. "I said we'd have a brief meeting, but there's not much to discuss. It's everyone's first day on the job, and we're all here. I'll say a few words. The Ninth Supervision Office is a newly established department; you should all feel the expectations and trust the leaders have placed on us. Yes, we're a new department, but I don't want everyone to see us as such. Everyone here has experience and capabilities in this field. Although we've just taken on new responsibilities and there's a period of adjustment ahead, that shouldn't be an excuse to affect our work. Starting tomorrow, new tasks will be introduced. Everyone knows the functions of the Second Section of the Ninth Office. I won't say anything else. I have only one request: everything else is negotiable, but there cannot be any issues with our work. I hope everyone pays attention to every detail and procedure." He paused. "That's all. Old Luo, say a few words."

Luo Haiqing waved her hand. "I'll pass."

"Say a few words," Dong Xuebing insisted.

After hesitating, Luo Haiqing followed Dong Xuebing's direction and expanded on what he had just said. Luo Haiqing was just a deputy section chief in the County Investment Promotion Bureau three years ago. She couldn't have imagined that she, with insufficient ability and lack of connections, could stand on the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection stage as a substantive division chief and speak to her subordinates. She hadn't even dared to dream about it. Even now, her head was still spinning a bit. Of course, the feeling was extremely good. Luo Haiqing enjoyed the authority that came with this position.

Dong Xuebing didn't interrupt; they just listened to Luo Haiqing speak on the side. When Sister Luo had almost finished speaking and looked at him, Dong Xuebing also gestured for her to continue speaking, which was quite obvious that he wanted to express his absolute support for Sister Luo to the others.

Luo Haiqing understood his meaning, hesitated momentarily, and continued speaking.

Dong Xuebing also noticed a major issue, leaving him stunned momentarily.

Damn, he realized that his entire department was composed of female comrades! Both deputy division chiefs were female, the two deputy division chief inspectors were female, and even the lowest-ranking one, Li Hong, was female. Apart from Dong Xuebing himself, the entire Second Division of the Ninth Bureau was like an army of women!

Dong Xuebing: "....."

This situation was truly rare. Dong Xuebing guessed that even the higher-ups hadn't anticipated it. Zhang Lili and Li Hong had been chosen earlier, so having two women wasn't a big deal. After all, their discipline inspection commission had quite a few female comrades. But Dong Xuebing's designated candidates also being female was probably something they hadn't expected, or maybe they didn't even think about it.

Sweat.

Wouldn't this give people something to gossip about?

Chapter 1697

The next day.

Morning.

Dong Xuebing exited the courtyard and saw Luo Haiqing leaving the residential compound. He couldn't help but pull over.

"Chief Luo." Dong Xuebing rolled down the car window.

"Yes, Chief Dong," Luo Haiqing approached.

"Get in. It's on the way," Dong Xuebing waved, opening the door for her.

"Alright, I'll ride with you then," Luo Haiqing said, getting into the car.

Dong Xuebing couldn't see clearly with the door blocking, but when Luo Haiqing got into the car, he finally saw her. She wore a long red skirt with black stockings and high heels. The only difference from yesterday was that the skirt was divided, with a casual suit jacket on top. It looked familiar like the one Dong Xuebing bought for her when they went to Wangfujing recently. Her hair was also pinned up at the back of her head, making her look capable and mature. Despite Dong Xuebing always muttering about Luo Haiqing's dress, she suited these colorful outfits. She might not look as good if she wore something lighter and more elegant.

"Not feeling cold?" Dong Xuebing stepped on the gas.

"I'm fine. Sister has never been afraid of the cold," Luo Haiqing smiled.

"This weather is getting colder by the day. It's winter already. I was worried you might feel cold," Dong Xuebing said. "Well, as long as you're not cold. Are you getting used to the residential compound?"

"It's good. The environment here is much better than in Fenzhou. Yesterday, I fell asleep as soon as I lay in bed," Luo Haiqing said.

"That's good. I was worried you wouldn't get used to it," Dong Xuebing said.

"No, I adapt quickly," Luo Haiqing said.

The unit's compound was just ahead. It wasn't far from the residential compound, only a few minutes' drive.

Suddenly, Dong Xuebing looked at Luo Haiqing and said, "By having you come over this time, you probably won't be able to return for a year or two. Are you mentally prepared for that?"

Luo Haiqing nodded. "If I don't achieve anything, Sister doesn't plan to go back."

"Your spouse and child might not be easy to see, although Fenzhou isn't far. After all, they are in two different cities. You've never left your hometown since entering the system. Your transfers have always been within the county or city. If you want your spouse and child to come over, I can help arrange it. There shouldn't be any problem with the child's school. I'll make a call. Except for some

first-rate schools, you can pick any. Your spouse's job shouldn't be difficult either. I can help find a company for him," Dong Xuebing said.

Hearing this, Luo Haiqing decisively waved her hand. "Thank you. I know you take care of me, but it's unnecessary. Bringing the family along will be distracting. It's better to let them stay in Fenzhou. I can go back more often on weekends or have my spouse bring the child over."

"Are you sure?" Dong Xuebing asked.

Luo Haiqing nodded. "It's unnecessary. Thanks."

"Okay then. If you need anything, just let me know," Dong Xuebing said.

Luo Haiqing chuckled. "Sure, I'll trouble you in the future." After saying that, she adjusted her skirt. "Is Sister's outfit okay today?"

Dong Xuebing coughed. "It's fine, looks great."

"Really? Is it nice?" Luo Haiqing glanced at him.

Dong Xuebing felt awkward but said, "Yes, very beautiful. You look stunning in this colorful outfit. Whatever you wear looks good on you."

Luo Haiqing smiled, her eyes bright. "Thank you."

They arrived at the office.

Dong Xuebing didn't go to the Second Section. After separating from Luo Haiqing, he went straight to a meeting room at the end of the corridor. Yesterday, Fang Wenping notified him of this meeting. The personnel adjustments had been completed, and everyone who needed to be present was there. Dong Xuebing was supposed to say a few words, such as the tasks and assignments of their Ninth Office, introduce any relevant leaders, and allow the heads of various departments to get to know each other. It was a new department, and even if the personnel knew each other or had met, they were not familiar. So, today's meeting was particularly important.

When Dong Xuebing entered, he found that several heads of departments had already arrived. It was still more than half an hour before the meeting, and judging by everyone's expressions, they had probably heard of Fang Wenping's reputation. Each person looked solemn. Dong Xuebing guessed they would have chosen the Tenth Office over the Ninth if possible. Who would like to work under a capricious woman like Fang Wenping? Dong Xuebing understood their current mindset very well. He was no exception; with Fang Wenping as the leader, he even felt uncomfortable in his office. He couldn't predict when Fang Wenping might suddenly appear. Dong Xuebing preferred leaders like Yin Cheng'an, who were easy-going and approachable.

"Chief Dong."

"Chief Liu, here so early?"

"Yes, arrived a while ago."

"Who are these?"

"Let me introduce them to you."

"Sure, thank you."

This Chief Liu used to be from the Seventh Supervision Office. He and Dong Xuebing worked in the same office building and had talked before, so they could be considered acquainted. As for the other people, Dong Xuebing was a bit unfamiliar with them. He wasn't an old cadre from the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection; he had only been here for a few months.

The expressions of everyone present were normal, and they shook hands and introduced themselves to Dong Xuebing. Although Dong Xuebing was the youngest there, they were all peers, and no one was higher than the other. So, getting along was quite normal. Besides, everyone had heard of Dong Xuebing's glorious deeds. He dared to confront Yang Zhen and even got scolded by Fang Wenping, yet he still managed to get promoted without any trouble. This proved something. They were all seasoned comrades, with the youngest in their thirties, so naturally, no one would underestimate Dong Xuebing.

After the introductions, everyone sat down, and there wasn't much conversation.

Seeing the atmosphere was a bit silent, Dong Xuebing wasn't surprised. This was the style of the disciplinary department. People like him and Fang Wenping were exceptions even within the disciplinary department. Leaders like Yin Cheng'an were rare. So, Dong Xuebing casually found a seat.

"Chief Dong," at this moment, a man in his late thirties sitting next to Dong Xuebing spoke up, "I heard your department is all female comrades."

This statement was a bit inappropriate.

Saying it out loud would always make people feel a bit awkward.

With this remark, the meeting room fell silent for a moment.

Dong Xuebing glanced at him. He had just been introduced; the one speaking was Chen Kai'an, the head of the Comprehensive Department of the Ninth Office. Dong Xuebing knew a little about this person. Before being transferred here, he was the deputy head of the Comprehensive Department of the First Supervision Office, Fang Wenping's old subordinate. Initially, Dong Xuebing didn't pay much attention to him, but hearing his words made him uncomfortable. Dong Xuebing furrowed his brows slightly, suddenly understanding. Chen Kai'an was probably aligned with Fang Wenping, counting on the animosity between Dong Xuebing and Fang Wenping. He was likely trying to provoke Dong Xuebing to impress the leaders.

Dong Xuebing didn't respond to him. He simply crossed his legs and casually played with his phone as if he hadn't heard a thing, completely ignoring him.

Chen Kai'an was somewhat annoyed.

Everyone else was watching the situation unfold, but no one spoke up.

Shortly after, footsteps approached, and Fang Wenping walked in, slamming the door shut as she entered. She sat directly at the head of the table. "Let's start the meeting."

Everyone straightened up and listened attentively.

Dong Xuebing did the same; he didn't want to give anyone a reason to gossip.

Fang Wenping didn't need notes. She glanced at everyone and proceeded to give a detailed explanation of the Ninth Supervision Office's work and the division of responsibilities among the departments.

Dong Xuebing rarely saw Fang Wenping in a working state like this. Seeing her now gave him a better understanding of her. This woman didn't reach her current position through family connections or mere chance. Like him, Fang Wenping had a somewhat difficult personality, but she also had many outstanding qualities in her work. For example, during this speech, which lasted more than half an hour, Fang Wenping didn't even glance at the script. She eloquently articulated everything from start to finish without hesitation or stumbling. Dong Xuebing, who prided himself on his eloquence, couldn't help but admire her. Indeed, anyone's success wasn't just luck or coincidence. Fang Wenping's ability to reach her current position was undoubtedly due to her talent. Others might curse her as a difficult woman, but some aspects of her personality overshadowed her shining qualities. Dong Xuebing had experienced this firsthand because, like Fang Wenping, he was also a controversial figure. From entering the system to the present, Dong Xuebing has faced criticism and questioning every step of the way. However, no one could shake him because there were things none of them could do, but Dong Xuebing could. This was his talent, something that no one could dispute.

Questioning.

Cursing.

Sometimes, it was just a manifestation of jealousy.

Dong Xuebing had endured a lot of questioning and better understood this issue than others. Now, he turned this understanding back on Fang Wenping. Dong Xuebing realized that this woman also had many shining qualities. Dong Xuebing could talk endlessly and curse with the best of them, but he fell short when it came to serious matters. Fang Wenping's uninterrupted speech for over half an hour was something Dong Xuebing couldn't achieve unless he used his special ability. Indeed, the Fang family, competing with the Xie family for so many years, weren't inferior. Not one of them was easy to deal with.

Before ten o'clock, Fang Wenping finished speaking. She was a person who acted swiftly and decisively. "Do you all understand the responsibilities of each department and the tasks for this month? If there's nothing else, the meeting is adjourned."

But it was at this moment that Chen Kai'an spoke up.

Chapter 1698

Meeting Room.

9:40.

Originally, when Fang Wenping said so, it was time to adjourn the meeting. However, unexpectedly, Chen Kai'an spoke up at this moment, causing several department heads who were preparing to leave to sit back down.

"Director Fang," Chen Kai'an said.

Fang Wenping glanced at him. "Do you have something to say?"

Chen Kai'an hesitated. "I'm not sure if I should speak or not."

"Just say it." This person seemed to be quite close to Fang Wenping. However, Fang Wenping seemed to be this way with everyone she dealt with, whether they were her subordinates or adversaries. She always appeared somewhat disdainful, as if she were above others, whether they were her people, other political opponents, or someone like Dong Xuebing, who was from the Xie family. Fang Wenping had never regarded anyone highly; this air of superiority seemed to come naturally to her. If it were anyone else showing such an expression or speaking in this manner, people would find it off-putting. But when it came from Fang Wenping, it seemed perfectly normal. Dong Xuebing sometimes had this feeling, too. It seemed that this woman was born with this demeanor.

To the point.

Seeing Director Fang speak, Chen Kai'an continued, "After yesterday's departmental adjustments, the personnel are basically all in place. But I've heard many people reflecting on some issues, mainly concerning our Ninth Supervision Office's Second Section."

"Second Section?" Fang Wenping interjected.

Everyone also turned their gaze to Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing was slightly taken aback. Damn, why is this about my department?

Fang Wenping said coldly, "What issues have been raised?"

Chen Kai'an paused for a moment. "Mostly regarding the personnel transfer to the Second Division. It's been noticed that everyone who transferred is a female comrade. Some are concerned about whether this has negative implications. I believe many of you have heard about it. Many people from various departments have been discussing it. Within our Commission, the Second Section of our Ninth Supervision Office, apart from the section head, comprises female comrades. I feel that it might be necessary to make adjustments under certain circumstances. After all, we are the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection. Even in other organizations, such a situation is unheard of. It's a bit..."

No one spoke.

But everyone was paying attention. Objectively speaking, this issue did have some minor problems. Many departments have managed to avoid such situations. But when you thought about it carefully, it wasn't that big of a deal for the Second Section. Because this time, the Second Section had reduced its personnel, and Dong Xuebing, as the division head, only had four people under him. Saying that the entire department was comprised of female comrades meant only four people. If it were a department with more than a dozen people, all female comrades, then it would indeed be a big deal. It depended on how the leadership viewed it.

But Dong Xuebing didn't buy it. He sneered, "Director Chen, what exactly are you trying to say? I don't understand."

Chen Kai'an glanced at him. "It's not good for the image."

Dong Xuebing retorted, "How is it not good for the image? I don't understand."

Chen Kai'an said, "I'm not deliberately picking on you. Many people are discussing this matter. I'm just reporting the situation."

Dong Xuebing stared at him. "But no matter how I look at it, you're picking on me. What do you mean, Director Chen? How does our Second Section's personnel adjustment affect your Comprehensive Division? Why is it your concern if it's not good for the image? It's absurd. Oh, let me ask you this: Aren't all of us here, male comrades? With Director Fang as the head, isn't that the same as the situation in my department? Why haven't I heard you say anything about it being bad for the image? Are you indirectly criticizing Director Fang?"

Chen Kai'an became annoyed. "What are you saying?"

"I didn't say anything. You said it yourself. I am the department head. If all the subordinates are of the opposite sex, it's considered a grave ethics violation. What has Director Fang become? My department only has four people. And there must be more than five or six people here," Dong Xuebing said.

Chen Kai'an retorted, "You're a male comrade."

Dong Xuebing countered, "So what if I'm male? So, in your opinion, having female subordinates under a male leader is unacceptable, but is it okay if it's the other way around? What era are we living in? Old Chen, you've been in discipline inspection for so long, and I'm puzzled. How can your consciousness be so low? It's been decades since the Central Committee emphasized gender equality. Why haven't you changed your mindset? Are you still stuck in the old ways of male superiority and female inferiority? I feel embarrassed for you. Where are your Party principles?"

Chen Kai'an became agitated. "I'm not favoring males over females. I'm just talking about this specific issue."

Dong Xuebing didn't let him finish. He interrupted, "So why are you distinguishing between male and female leaders? You are indeed favoring males over females. Moreover, as far as I know, the head of the Comprehensive Division of the Second Supervision Office, Sister Wang, is also a female comrade, and there are male comrades in her department. Sister Wang has been working in the unit for so many years. Why haven't you mentioned anything about it being detrimental to the image? Why is it suddenly an issue when it comes to me? You're not favoring males over females? What are you then? You're treating male and female comrades differently."

Chen Kai'an became furious. "I..."

"Director Fang is still here, and you're saying this?" Dong Xuebing sneered. "Do you still have any respect for Director Fang? Aren't you indirectly criticizing Director Fang? It's fine if my department needs adjustments. We can also bring in some male comrades. But if that's the case, shouldn't we also bring in some female comrades for everyone here? Since it's Director Chen's proposal, I suggest Director Chen should step down first."

Chen Kai'an was livid. "You..."

Dong Xuebing continued, "This is simply groundless. Promoting these cadres is not solely up to me, Dong Xuebing. It's with the consent of Director Fang and the approval of the Commission's leadership. You can question me, but you're also questioning Director Fang and the leadership of the Commission. Cadres' transfers and promotions are based on their work capabilities. I wonder, how come in your eyes, Director Chen, gender needs to be considered? What's wrong with female

comrades? Are female comrades inferior in your eyes while male comrades are considered human beings?"

Chen Kai'an tried to explain, "I didn't mean..."

"But that's what you implied," Dong Xuebing slapped him with one accusation after another.

In the end, the people in the meeting room shook their heads slightly. They could see that Chen Kai'an was no match for Dong Xuebing. Their verbal skills were not on the same level.

Fang Wenping ended the argument by saying, "Alright, let's adjourn the meeting." She was trying to protect Chen Kai'an. The more they argued, the clearer it became that Chen Kai'an couldn't explain himself.

Chapter 1699

At ten o'clock, the meeting ended. People gradually left the small conference room. Chen Kai'an, the head of the Comprehensive Division, was filled with anger. His eyes were cold and heavy. He wanted nothing more than to kick Dong Xuebing to death. He had only responded to some doubts raised by other comrades and said a few words. But then Dong Xuebing started lecturing him with nonsense and slapped him with one accusation after another. Chen Kai'an didn't even get a chance to rebut. From start to finish, his words were stuck in his throat. When Director Fang announced the adjournment of the meeting, he hadn't had a chance to say anything. He was furious, his lungs almost exploding with anger. Being lectured like this by a subordinate who was much younger than him was something he couldn't accept. Chen Kai'an had only seen this kind of eloquence in Director Fang before. He never expected this surnamed Dong to have such a sharp tongue, just like Director Fang.

Encountering a thorny issue, Chen Kai'an's face turned dark. Originally, he wanted to help Director Fang punish Dong Xuebing and teach him a lesson, to tell him not to be too arrogant. But unexpectedly, things developed far beyond his expectations and turned into the current situation. Chen Kai'an couldn't save face at all.

On the other side, Dong Xuebing was also in a bad mood. Although he won the verbal battle, he didn't expect someone to make a fuss about such trivial matters just two days into his new position. It was all about women being unfavorable. Dong Xuebing admitted that this was somewhat problematic, but it couldn't be openly discussed. It felt like someone was deliberately trying to upset him.

After the meeting, Dong Xuebing went for a walk, bought a bottle of chilled cola from the internal supermarket, and stood outside in the cold, gulping it down. The cold water helped cool his temper a bit. Then he snorted and returned to his department's office area.

Inside, everyone was talking.

"What does that guy Chen mean?"

"The Comprehensive Division is just picking faults for no reason."

"Just because it's all women, it's not good anymore. Who are they scolding?"

It was obvious that the matter had reached their ears. Zhang Lili and Han Fei were the most aggressive, ranting about Chen Kai'an and even scolding the other members of the Comprehensive

Division. Luo Haiting was probably in the office and didn't show up, while the usually quiet Li Hong didn't say much, but her expression didn't look good either.

Dong Xuebing walked in.

"Director Dong," Han Fei stood up abruptly. "They're making trouble out of nothing. You can't go easy on them. We can't compromise."

Dong Xuebing smiled, "What did I compromise on?"

Li Hong, unusually, spoke up, "Are we going to have personnel adjustments?"

Zhang Lili had more information. She spoke up for Dong Xuebing, "What adjustments? Director Dong already scolded Chen Kai'an during the meeting. I heard Director Chen didn't even have the strength to retort. If it hadn't been for Director Fang to step in later, Chen Director would have been scolded to the ground by Director Dong. This matter seems to be over now. Director Fang didn't mention it again after adjourning the meeting, so we definitely won't take action."

Han Fei breathed a sigh of relief. "That's good. Haha, Director Dong is formidable."

Dong Xuebing said helplessly, "Stop flattering. Get back to work quickly. The tasks have been assigned. I'll discuss with Old Luo first and then distribute the work to you later."

"Yes, sir," Han Fei chirped.

With Han Fei's cheerful demeanor, the atmosphere in the office relaxed a lot.

At this moment, Luo Haiting probably heard the voices and came out of the office. "Director Dong, you're back."

Dong Xuebing nodded, "Director Luo, I was just about to find you. Let's have a chat and discuss the work allocation. Come to my office for a moment."

"Okay," Luo Haiting followed him.

Luo Haiting looked at him inside the office, "Are you angry?"

Dong Xuebing waved his hand, "I'm not angry. If anyone should be angry, it should be Chen Kai'an. I didn't hold back during the meeting."

Luo Haiting chuckled, "He didn't even bother to find out who you are and still dared to argue with you. Isn't he just inviting trouble upon himself?" Luo Haiting was the person in the unit who knew Dong Xuebing the best. After working together for many years, she had never seen Dong Xuebing lose a verbal argument. Even if it was something unreasonable, Dong Xuebing could argue his way through it.

Dong Xuebing took out some documents, "Let's not talk about him."

"Alright," Luo Haiting pulled over a chair, "I heard you had a big conflict with Director Fang. Will it affect our work?"

Dong Xuebing shrugged, "It doesn't matter. Let's do our job. As long as there are no major issues that people can use against us." He had nothing to hide from Luo Haiting.

The two began discussing their work. Since it was a new department, there was still much to communicate and discuss. This discussion lasted for an hour, and it was almost eleven o'clock.

Dong Xuebing felt a bit tired and stretched his slightly sore shoulders. He picked up a cup of tea and took a sip, intending to suggest a break to Luo Haiting. But as he raised his head, he caught sight of Luo Haiting's slightly exposed skirt. She was sitting next to Dong Xuebing, and at a slightly oblique angle, her legs were crossed. Maybe she was tired and shifted her position, crossing her legs more prominently. The hem of her skirt moved up slightly, revealing a hint of a deep blue color. It was just a trace, but because of the angle and the lighting, Dong Xuebing could see it.

Dong Xuebing glanced but then felt slightly embarrassed, quickly turning his head away. "Would you like some water, Director Luo? Take a break."

Luo Haiting stood up, "I'll do it myself."

The fleeting glimpse was gone, much to Dong Xuebing's regret.

"I'll have a cup too," Dong Xuebing handed over his cup. "Thanks." After pouring the water, Dong Xuebing drank another large sip and then stretched his neck, making a cracking sound.

"Let me massage your shoulders, Director," without waiting for his response, Luo Haiting walked up from behind and began massaging Dong Xuebing's shoulders.

"It's okay, not necessary," Dong Xuebing politely declined.

But Luo Haiting didn't listen. Instead, she pressed his head back, making Dong Xuebing lie on her ample chest, and began massaging his neck and scalp.

So comfortable.

Dong Xuebing thoroughly enjoyed it and looked forward to the "working environment" in the future.

Chapter 1700

Evening came, and work was over. Dong Xuebing came out of the office.

"Director Dong, are you going home?" Han Fei smiled.

"Yeah, everyone should go home early," Dong Xuebing said.

Zhang Lili said, "It's okay, I'll finish up the work at hand."

Li Hong and Han Fei hadn't finished their work either, so they didn't leave first. After all, they had just taken office and couldn't appear too casual.

"Keep an eye on the time. If there's anything, we can do it tomorrow," Dong Xuebing was always considerate of his subordinates.

The door creaked open, and Luo Haiting came out with her bag.

Dong Xuebing turned around, "Director Luo, why don't you go home together?"

"Okay, then I'll ride with you," Luo Haiting smiled. "I'm still not familiar with the roads. I just came to Beijing and can't understand the directions well."

Dong Xuebing laughed, "It's easy to recognize the roads in Beijing. They're mostly oriented north-south. You'll get used to it after walking around for several days. Let's go. I'll give you a ride back."

Luo Haiting adjusted her long hair, "Thanks."

Dong Xuebing turned to the others and said, "Xiao Zhang, Han, Li, you should go home early, too. Don't work too late, so your family won't worry."

Han Fei raised her head, "We'll leave soon."

Only then did Dong Xuebing and Luo Haiting go downstairs together.

On the way inside the car, Luo Haiting glanced at him, "Xuebing, what do you want to eat tonight?"

"I'm not sure yet. Too lazy to cook myself. Maybe we'll find a restaurant," Dong Xuebing said.

"How about going to my place for dinner?" Luo Haiting smiled charmingly. "I will cook you a good meal."

Dong Xuebing hesitated for a moment. He had been thinking about Sister Luo's cooking for a long time. Her cooking was delicious. "It might not be appropriate. There are a lot of people in the family area, and..."

He paused momentarily, clearing his throat, "Or we can go to my place. I have some groceries. I just bought them yesterday."

Luo Haiting didn't hesitate, "Alright, it's the same."

Dong Xuebing cleared his throat again, "That sounds good. I've been craving your cooking."

Feeling hungry, he stepped on the gas pedal, accelerated the car, and drove straight to Houhai, where they parked the car and walked into the alley together.

It was getting colder in the courtyard, especially today, which seemed to be turning colder. Dong Xuebing and Luo Haiting felt it as soon as they entered the room. After putting down their bags, they felt it was even colder inside than outside. After all, it was a house without heating. Dong Xuebing rummaged through the cabinets and found an electric heater. He turned it on, but it didn't seem to work well in such a large room, and he still felt a bit cold.

"Did you not light a fire?" Luo Haiting asked.

"I didn't have time the past few days," Dong Xuebing said, placing his hands in front of the electric heater and blowing hot air. "This temperature, we probably won't be able to sleep tonight."

Luo Haiting asked, "Do you have a stove?"

"Yes, it's been stored in the west room, but we don't have coal," Dong Xuebing said. "I forgot to buy it." He hadn't lived in a big house for a long time. In the past, his family would buy coal and charcoal before winter so they could use them anytime. But now, with more and more things to do and getting busier, plus not having lived in a bungalow for many years, Dong Xuebing hadn't thought about it.

Luo Haiting sighed, "Without coal, we can't light a fire."

Suddenly, a cry came from outside, or rather, a shout.

"Coal for sale!"

"Get your coal!"

It was a coincidence. The coal seller had arrived.

Dong Xuebing didn't expect there were still coal sellers in the alleys of Beijing. His eyes lit up, and he quickly walked outside, calling, "Wait!"

Just as he went out, he saw a man riding a tricycle with a load of coal parked there. The man looked at Dong Xuebing and said, "How much do you need?"

Dong Xuebing looked and saw that there wasn't much coal left on the tricycle a lot had been sold. "Give me the rest of these. Do you have charcoal, too? I'll take a few pieces." Since the entire courtyard belonged to Dong Xuebing's family, with many rooms, he naturally needed to buy more to be prepared. Otherwise, it wouldn't be enough if they needed to light two fires. This was why coal sellers were still in the alleys during the early winter. They would have to find it themselves if they wanted to buy later, so it was better to buy more now. A piece of coal didn't cost much, and Dong Xuebing wasn't short of money. He could use it next year if he didn't finish it this year.

"Okay," the big man said.

Luo Haiting followed, "Help us carry it in."

"Sure thing," the big man said. "You guys make room."

Luo Haiting immediately started looking for a place to put the coal, acting like a hostess.

Before long, the half-cart of coal was all in Dong Xuebing's courtyard, placed in a corner with an overhang. They could cover it with plastic or something else later, which would be fine.

Dong Xuebing went back inside to get the money. But when he came out, the coal seller had already left, and Sister Luo had already paid the bill.

"Sister Luo, why did you do that?" Dong Xuebing was a little unhappy. "How can I let you spend money?"

"Hehe, it's not much," Luo Haiting smiled. "You've spent money on me, too, and we're not outsiders."

Dong Xuebing was helpless, "Well, thanks."

"The stove is in the west room. I'll go get it," Luo Haiting turned and went inside.

"Don't worry about it," Dong Xuebing hurriedly followed her inside, grabbing her arm and stopping her. "You're wearing such a bright red dress, and your sweater will get dirty. You can't do it. Besides, you can't carry it. Just leave it to me."

Luo Haiting hesitated momentarily, then smiled, "Then I will get the chimney."

"Okay," Dong Xuebing carried the stove out. It was heavy, sometimes dragging on the ground, and it took him a long time to drag it into the northern room.

Meanwhile, Luo Haiting had already installed the chimney and removed the paper covering the window, stepping on a chair to push the chimney out.

The stove was installed, and the chimney was secured. With the excuse of sealing it with tape, Dong Xuebing put the coal down, added a piece of charcoal at the bottom, and placed several pieces of coal on top. He poked holes in the coal with tongs, straightened them out, skillfully rolled up some newspaper, lit it with a lighter, and inserted it into the bottom of the stove. He gently blew on it.

Hoo.

Hoo.

The charcoal ignited.

Luo Haiting smiled, "I didn't realize you were so skilled."

Dong Xuebing covered a third of the stove opening and looked up, "Could I not be skilled? When I lived in a courtyard before, my dad and mom had bad backs, so I was the one who lit the fire at home. Back then, we were poor, and charcoal was expensive, so we couldn't afford to buy much. It wasn't as simple as it is now. Every time we made a fire, the whole house was full of smoke, choking us. Now we have charcoal, and it burns well. It's not as troublesome as it used to be." Dong Xuebing knew this better than Luo Haiting because he had experienced a lot of hardships in his life.

The fire was burning.

The room was gradually warming up.

But as soon as the two stepped out of the house, they felt like the courtyard was filled with thick smoke. Luo Haiting covered her mouth and coughed a few times. "Let's go cook."

Dong Xuebing's eyes were stinging from the smoke. "Sorry about that."

About a minute later, the smoke in the yard dispersed, and with the north room's door open, the thick smoke inside the house also gradually dissipated.

It's time for dinner.

Luo Haiting cooked the dishes.

Dong Xuebing sat with her next to the stove in the north room, feeling the warm temperature around them. They ate dinner together and felt good.

Luo Haiting asked, "Is it okay?"

Dong Xuebing said, "How can your cooking not be good? It's delicious."

Luo Haiting smiled and served him more food. "Then eat more."

While they were eating, Luo Haiting suddenly blinked. "Is your phone ringing?"

Dong Xuebing listened and indeed heard some noise. He entered the inner room, opened his bag, and took out his phone. When he checked, it was a call from his mom, Luan Xiaoping. But by the time he picked it up, the call had ended. He thought for a moment, then called his mom back. However, it didn't go through. He tried again, but it still didn't connect. So he didn't think about it anymore. His mom called him every week, probably to check on him, nothing urgent.

After coming out, Dong Xuebing continued eating.

After dinner, Dong Xuebing and Luo Haiting sat in bed watching TV. Although nothing was special, Dong Xuebing felt a little itchy in his heart. The atmosphere was also a bit ambiguous. After all, he had slept with Luo Haiting before. Even though they hadn't done anything since then, he couldn't forget what had happened.

It was already past seven.

The skies turned dark.

Luo Haiting didn't mention leaving and kept watching the news, occasionally exchanging a few words with Dong Xuebing, discussing current affairs.

Dong Xuebing had been coughing the whole time, unsure what to do.

On the other hand, Luo Haiting was more straightforward. After the news ended, she glanced at Dong Xuebing and checked the time. "I am not in a hurry to leave either. How about..." With that, Luo Haiting caught Dong Xuebing off guard as she removed her sweater. Underneath, there was nothing else but a bra. The blue bra was immediately revealed. Luo Haiting calmly unhooked her bra and threw it aside without waiting for a second.

Dong Xuebing's breath hitched.

Wasn't this too much for a buddy?

Luo Haiting paused for a moment, then started taking off her skirt. The stockings and panties underneath were also exposed. She acted very casually.

Dong Xuebing was torn, swallowing hard.

"Is this okay?" Dong Xuebing asked.

Luo Haiting looked at him. "I don't mind."

Dong Xuebing gritted his teeth and began taking off his shirt.

But just then, there was a sudden knock on the courtyard door, followed by footsteps rushing in.

"Xuebing, are you here?"

It was Dong Xuebing's mom, Luan Xiaoping.

Dong Xuebing was stunned. Why was his mom here?