

## PAW 1701

### Chapter 1701

Indoors.

Someone arrived.

Tension filled the room.

Luo Haiting was slightly taken aback. "Who's that?"

"My mom's here." Dong Xuebing hurriedly said, "Quick, get dressed."

Without needing further instruction, Luo Haiting anxiously pulled her skirt over her legs. Being a married woman, she cared more about her reputation than Dong Xuebing did, so her movements to dress were frantic, struggling with the buttons several times.

Dong Xuebing was also getting dressed. "Hurry up."

"Almost ready," Luo Haiting became more flustered as she hurried.

Once Dong Xuebing finished dressing, he quickly helped her put on a sweater.

Outside, his mom's voice was getting closer. "Xuebing, Xuebing."

Dong Xuebing responded, "Ah, Mom, I'm here. Why did you come?"

"Why didn't you pick up when I just called you?" Luan Xiaoping sounded a bit annoyed. "I called you several times. What are you doing at home?"

Dong Xuebing hurriedly explained, "Oh, I was busy making a fire and setting up the chimney and stove. I didn't hear. Later, I called you back, but your phone was busy."

Luan Xiaoping said, "I couldn't get through to you either. So I called your in-laws. They told me you got a courtyard house with Hou Hai. That's why I came over. You kid, you're something. You said you'd give me a surprise, and it's this. Why didn't you tell me earlier? Now, you're a cadre in the Discipline Inspection Commission, even at the central level. What's the deal with this courtyard house? It's too conspicuous."

"This conspicuousness—never mind, just come in and see if you like it." Dong Xuebing stalled for time as he helped Luo Haiting put on her sweater. During the process of pulling it down, he accidentally touched her chest, which was soft.

From outside came his mother's voice. "Of course I like it. It's such a big courtyard house. Who wouldn't like it? How much did it cost?"

"You don't need to worry about that."

"Isn't it just a question?"

"If you like it, come and stay for a while."

After a few words like this, the door to the north room finally opened.

Luan Xiaoping pushed the door open and walked in. She didn't bother with the inner door and immediately saw Dong Xuebing and Luo Haiting sitting there. But now, Sister Luo had just managed to get dressed somewhat decently a few seconds ago. Aside from her slightly disheveled sweater, there was nothing else noticeable.

Dong Xuebing smiled, "Luo Haiting, Sister. Luo."

Luan Xiaoping suddenly realized, "Right, Luo Haiting."

Luo Haiting quickly greeted her, "Auntie Luan, hello."

Mom was from Fen Zhou City, where Luo Haiting had been working for a long time. They had met before, but they weren't very familiar. However, Mom knew that Luo Haiting had been Dong Xuebing's old subordinate. "How come you're in Beijing?" Mom's face showed a hint of suspicion.

Dong Xuebing quickly explained, "I brought Sister Luo over. Didn't the department go through restructuring? I thought I'd have Sister Luo come over and help me out."

Luo Haiting smiled, "Director Dong has been caring for me."

Dong Xuebing added, "Sister Luo just arrived yesterday. We were planning to have a meal and catch up today. We just finished eating and haven't moved yet when you arrived."

Luan Xiaoping didn't doubt him, probably because she didn't think about it from other perspectives. After all, Sister Luo was not young.

"Mom, why did you come today?" Dong Xuebing was puzzled. "From so far away, why didn't you call ahead so I could pick you up?"

Luan Xiaoping snorted, "Can I count on you for that?"

"Oh, come on, I didn't hear your call. Look at you saying that. If you had called me yesterday, I would have prepared early. How did you get here?" Dong Xuebing asked.

Luan Xiaoping said, "Your Uncle Yang's driver brought me over. I cannot stay long, they're waiting outside, so I'll leave."

Dong Xuebing was taken aback. "Then why did you make the trip?"

Suddenly, Luan Xiaoping sneezed heavily. "I caught a cold."

Only then did Dong Xuebing realize. "Uh, if you have a cold, you shouldn't have come, especially on such a cold day."

At this moment, Luan Xiaoping walked into the room. A petite figure appeared beside her. Dong Xuebing and Luo Haiting just noticed that there was a little one beside Mom.

It was Qu Qian, Dong Xuebing, and Qu Yunxuan's daughter.

Dong Xuebing exclaimed, "Qianqian's here too!"

Qianqian was already walking quite well. Luan Xiaoping didn't carry her, and at a year and a half old, Qianqian was holding Luan Xiaoping's hand, looking at Dong Xuebing with big, hopeful eyes.

Luo Haiting had also met Qianqian before. Dong Xuebing had brought Qianqian to the office before, so she knew Qianqian was Dong Xuebing's goddaughter, as he often referred to her.

Without much preamble, Luan Xiaoping said, "I'm leaving the child with you. I've caught a cold, and your Uncle Yang also got infected by me and even developed a fever. It's quite serious, so we fear spreading it to the child. Please take care of her for a few days."

Dong Xuebing asked, "What about Yunxuan?"

"Yunxuan's on a business trip and isn't here. If she were, she could take care of the child for you. Mom's worried." Luan Xiaoping muttered but didn't say much more with Luo Haiting present.

"Take her. I have to go back tonight."

Dong Xuebing chuckled, genuinely happy. He clapped his hands on the ground and said, "Qianqian, come here, come find Daddy."

Qianqian didn't move from her spot, staring at him with big eyes.

Dong Xuebing felt awkward. "She doesn't recognize me anymore."

Luan Xiaoping explained, "It's been a while since you last saw her. She's shy." After saying this, Luan Xiaoping bent down and patted Qianqian's little head. "Qianqian, this is Daddy. Find Daddy. Grandma is sick and can't watch you. Go stay with Daddy for a few days."

Qianqian blinked, then slowly toddled forward with her chubby legs. Although she didn't fall while walking, it was clear she wasn't very agile, walking with a bit of a limp.

Dong Xuebing was afraid she might fall, so he hurried forward and picked up his daughter, trying to reassure her. Seeing her still shy, Dong Xuebing resorted to his usual tactic and lifted her energetically, saying, "Up high, up high!"

Every time he did this, Qianqian always fell for it.

The little girl's originally tense face instantly relaxed into a smile. She gigglingly raised her two chubby hands cutely. "Ya ya!"

Dong Xuebing hugged her tightly and kissed her daughter's little face. "You're such a good girl," she said.

Qianqian was no longer shy, now excitedly dancing, "Daddy, Daddy!"

Hearing this, Dong Xuebing was so moved that tears almost welled up. "Ah, my child can talk now! Such a huge sense of happiness washed over me."

She called me Daddy.

Haha, my child called me Daddy!

She's only about a year and a half old and already talking. She is truly a little prodigy!

Chapter 1702

Evening.

At home.

"Daddy!"

"Yes!"

"Daddy!"

"Repeat it!"

"...Daddy!"

"Haha, good girl, good girl!"

Dong Xuebing held his daughter in the north room, swinging her around. Xiao Qianqian's pronunciation wasn't perfect. Instead of "daddy," it was more like "baba" with a different tone, but this still made Dong Xuebing so happy he didn't know what to do with himself. Girls generally speak earlier than boys, but Dong Xuebing didn't expect his daughter to speak this early. He thought it would be another three or six months before he could hear her call him daddy. Who would have thought it would happen so soon? Indeed, she is his daughter. She wasn't even one and a half years old yet and could already speak. Dong Xuebing was proud. Generally, many babies can say "daddy" before they're one. The pronunciation is simpler and lacks the nasal sound of "mommy." It might not have much to do with intelligence. Dong Xuebing, like any parent, naturally believed his child was better than others.

Dong Xuebing's joyful expression also amused Luo Haiting. They had worked together for so long, and she had never seen him like this.

On the other hand, Luan Xiaoping looked quite surprised.

Dong Xuebing laughed and looked at his mother, "Mom, when did she start calling people? Why didn't you tell me earlier? If I had known, I would have come over sooner!"

Luan Xiaoping was speechless, "She wasn't calling anyone before."

Dong Xuebing was puzzled, "Isn't she calling me now?"

"She couldn't do it before; I've never heard it," Luan Xiaoping was also amazed. She pinched Xiao Qianqian's cheek, "Come on, say grandma."

Xiao Qianqian flailed her arms and legs, "Daddy! Daddy!"

Luan Xiaoping was a bit unhappy, "Say, grandma, follow me, grandma."

"Daddy!" Xiao Qianqian still clung to her father's clothes, babbling.

Dong Xuebing was overjoyed, "So she only started calling today? Hahaha, I must be charming, right? Look, look!"

Luan Xiaoping was a bit envious and kept trying to coax her granddaughter to say grandma, but Qianqian only called her father and wouldn't say anything else. Luan Xiaoping couldn't help but give the baby a look, "You little ingrate. Grandma takes care of you all day, changes your diapers, feeds you, and hasn't slept well in ages. And you only like your dad, huh?"

Luo Haiting laughed, "Sister Luan, kids usually say daddy first because it's easier to pronounce. My child did the same. She could say daddy, grandma, and grandpa before saying mommy. I was quite upset then, too. She should be able to say Grandma soon."

Luan Xiaoping agreed, "Xiaobing was the same back then."

Dong Xuebing sat down with his daughter and gave her a big kiss on the cheek. "Look at my good little girl, getting prettier by the day."

Maybe Dong Xuebing's beard tickled her, and Xiao Qianqian giggled. Reaching out to grab her dad's beard, she tugged without much gentleness, "Yah! Yah!"

Dong Xuebing didn't mind; instead, he enjoyed it, stretching his neck out for her to grab.

Luan Xiaoping said, "Alright, enough playing. I should go. I need to give you some instructions. Qianqian goes to bed early but sometimes wakes up at night, so you must watch her. I didn't bring the stroller because there's no space. Let her sleep inside when you go to bed so she doesn't fall and get hurt. Also, buy some more formula and diapers. Ensure she eats some meat daily, but not too salty or spicy." Dong Xuebing only half-listened, his mind elsewhere.

"Did you hear me?" Luan Xiaoping said angrily.

Dong Xuebing replied, "Yes, yes, I heard you. Got it."

Still annoyed, Luan Xiaoping said, "I'm entrusting the child's mother to you. Don't mess this up, okay? Pay attention, or you'll be in big trouble!"

Dong Xuebing, a bit impatient, said, "Got it, got it, you can trust me."

"It would be good if I could trust you. I wouldn't let you take care of the child if it weren't necessary. Now, repeat what I just said," Luan Xiaoping insisted.

At this moment, Luo Haiting said, "Director Dong, Sister Luan, I'll be heading back now."

When Dong Xuebing remembered the earlier near-miss with his mom, he felt a bit guilty and said, "Alright, take care on your way."

Luo Haiting nodded, "Sure."

"By the way, you don't have a car yet. Do you want to take mine?" Dong Xuebing offered.

"No need. I wouldn't know the way even if I drove. I'll take a taxi; the driver will know the way," Luo Haiting replied.

Luan Xiaoping looked at her and said, "Alright then, I won't see you off. In the future, I'll need you to look after Xiaobing more. His temper is too bad, and he can act impulsively. Keep an eye on him for me."

Luo Haiting agreed and left.

Luan Xiaoping continued giving instructions to Dong Xuebing for a while.

...

Around eight o'clock.

Worried about spreading her cold to Qianqian, Luan Xiaoping quickly left. A car was waiting for her outside, so she didn't stay any longer.

Only Dong Xuebing and his daughter were left in the house.

"Come on, say daddy," Dong Xuebing said, holding his daughter close.

"Daddy! Daddy!" Xiao Qianqian responded obediently, immediately calling out.

Her pronunciation was getting more accurate, almost using the fourth tone. Dong Xuebing knew whether a child spoke early often depended on how much their parents taught them. So, he did nothing else but chat with his daughter, teaching her to speak one word at a time.

Knock, knock, knock.

Knock, knock, knock.

Someone was at the gate.

Dong Xuebing was puzzled. Who could it be at this hour? He put Qianqian on the bed and said, "Don't move, stay here. Daddy will be right back."

Xiao Qianqian raised her hand, "Yah!"

Dong Xuebing said, "You agreed? Good girl."

"Ga-ga... yah!" Xiao Qianqian seemed to understand she was being praised and smiled happily.

Dong Xuebing patted his daughter's head and walked out of the north room to see who was at the door.

"Hmm?"

"Xuebing."

"Sister Luo?"

It was Luo Haiting, who had left not long ago.

Dong Xuebing was surprised, "Didn't you go home? Why are you back?" He stepped aside to let her in and closed the gate.

"Your mother went home?" Luo Haiting asked.

"Yes, she left a while ago," Dong Xuebing answered.

Luo Haiting raised the items in her hand, "I didn't have anything to do, and your mother mentioned the child needed formula and diapers. I thought you might be busy, so I bought them for you. There's also a bottle and other things the baby might need."

Dong Xuebing quickly took the heavy plastic bag, "Oh, I can't thank you enough for this."

Luo Haiting smiled, "No need to be polite. Where's the child?"

"She's on the bed inside," Dong Xuebing pointed.

Luo Haiting exclaimed, "Don't leave the child alone on the bed. Without something to block her, she might fall off and get hurt."

The two of them quickly returned to the room.

Fortunately, Xiao Qianqian was obedient, sitting there without moving and maintaining her position when Dong Xuebing left. Her big eyes blinked as she watched the doorway as if she understood what Dong Xuebing had told her. She hadn't moved a muscle, filling Dong Xuebing with satisfaction and accomplishment. This was his good daughter, so well-behaved!

Dong Xuebing couldn't help but kiss his daughter again.

But for some reason, as soon as he kissed her, Xiao Qianqian's big eyes suddenly filled with tears, and she started crying loudly.

Dong Xuebing was startled, "What's wrong, baby? What's wrong?"

Xiao Qianqian continued to cry, tears streaming down her face.

Dong Xuebing was heartbroken and didn't know what to do, "Are you hungry? I'll make you some formula. Oh no, there's no hot water!"

The room was in chaos.

Only Luo Haiting remained calm, experienced as she was with children. She slowly walked over, picked up Qianqian, and touched her. "She's wet."

Dong Xuebing realized, "What should we do?"

Luo Haiting pointed out, "Hand me a diaper."

"Alright, alright." Dong Xuebing was at a loss, not because he wasn't steady but because he cared too much about his child. When his daughter cried, he panicked. He quickly grabbed a pack of diapers, tore it open, and handed it to Luo Haiting. "Here, quickly, change her."

Luo Haiting nodded, unhurriedly took off Qianqian's wet diaper and threw it on the floor. She asked Dong Xuebing to fetch a towel dampened with warm water to clean Qianqian's bottom, let it air dry, and then expertly put on a new diaper. "All done."

Qianqian's tears finally stopped.

Dong Xuebing breathed a sigh of relief, "That scared me."

Luo Haiting laughed, "You're just too nervous. You haven't taken care of a child much. You'll get the hang of it with practice. By the way, you should boil some water. It needs to be hot. The new bottles need to be sterilized with boiling water. And it's time to feed her, or she'll be hungry and won't sleep well tonight."

Dong Xuebing took her advice to heart, knowing she had more experience. "Got it. I'll do it right away." He didn't go to the kitchen; instead, he took a kettle, filled it with water, and placed it on the stove in the north room, lighting the fire beneath it.

Washing the bottle.

Mixing the formula.

Cooling it down.

Feeding the baby.

Dong Xuebing didn't get a moment's rest that evening.

Caring for a child was indeed a lot of work and quite troublesome. Luckily, Luo Haiting was there to help. Otherwise, he wouldn't have managed on his own.

Chapter 1703

In the blink of an eye, it was ten o'clock.

Xiao Qianqian had finally been coaxed to sleep by Luo Haiting and Dong Xuebing. It was not an easy task. Dong Xuebing finally understood the hard work his mother and Aunt Xuan had gone through. Taking care of a child was truly exhausting and required immense patience. Otherwise, it could wear a person out. Especially a lively and playful childlike Xiao Qianqian, who always made a fuss and cried loudly. Dong Xuebing felt utterly drained as if all the energy had been sucked out of him. When Qianqian was younger, he had cared for her a few times, but she wasn't this troublesome. Now, the older she got, the more mischievous she became. Yet, Dong Xuebing couldn't bear to say anything. When Xiao Qianqian called "daddy," Dong Xuebing's heart melted.

Looking at the clock, Dong Xuebing softly said to Luo Haiting, "Sister Luo, it's getting late. It's almost ten o'clock. You should head back early."

Luo Haiting smiled, "It's fine."

Dong Xuebing said, "You've been busy all evening."

"I like children; it's no trouble," Luo Haiting replied.

Dong Xuebing smiled wryly, "But I can't let you stay up all night."

Luo Haiting glanced at him, "If I leave, can you handle it alone? Even though the child sleeps now, she might wake up at night, especially since your goddaughter is lively. I'm sure she'll wake up. Besides, I think she might be coming down with a cold. Your mother might have already passed it on to her. Didn't you hear her crying with a heavy nose just now? If she gets a fever, how will you manage alone?"

Dong Xuebing hesitated, "I don't want to trouble you too much."

"It's no trouble. I live alone, and there's nothing urgent at home," Luo Haiting said with a smile. "I'll stay tonight and help you care for the child."

Dong Xuebing thought momentarily, "Will it affect your rest?"

"It won't," Luo Haiting replied. "The little one is so cute. Honestly, I wouldn't feel comfortable leaving you alone with her. I'll stay for the night."

Dong Xuebing said, "Alright, thank you so much."

"It's no trouble at all," Luo Haiting said.

"Shall we sit outside for a bit? I'm not sleepy yet," Dong Xuebing suggested.

Luo Haiting nodded and arranged some pillows and blankets along the edge of the bed to prevent Qianqian from rolling off. She also moved a low table to block the bed in case Qianqian woke up and tried to climb out. Luo Haiting was meticulous, much more so than Dong Xuebing, and was very good at caring for children.

After making sure everything was safe, they went out and closed the door.

In the living room, Dong Xuebing said, "You've been busy all this time; you must be hungry. I'll make something to eat."

"I'm hungry, but let me do it," Luo Haiting said as she walked into the courtyard. "What do you want to eat? For a late-night snack, let's not make anything too greasy."



Dong Xuebing insisted, "No way, you've done enough. I'll make some noodles. You just sit back. Don't fight me on this, Sister Luo, or I won't dare to trouble you in the future." With that, Dong Xuebing headed to the kitchen to cook the noodles.

Luo Haiting followed him, "What are you making?"

"How about some fried sauce noodles?" Dong Xuebing suggested.

"Sure, I haven't had authentic Beijing fried sauce noodles yet," Luo Haiting said.

Dong Xuebing laughed, "I can't promise it'll be authentic Beijing style. I might not have all the ingredients, but I'll do my best. Please bear with me."

Dong Xuebing started preparing the fried sauce for the noodles. He used pork belly, which had the right balance of fat and lean meat for the best flavor. His refrigerator had everything he needed: yellow soybean paste, sweet bean paste, green onions, ginger, dark soy sauce, and cooking wine. He also prepared some raw garlic to eat with the meal. Dong Xuebing was meticulous with every ingredient and step, getting the timing right. Once the sauce was done, the noodles were cooked, and he prepared some small radishes as toppings, using the leftover sweet bean paste.

Luo Haiting watched in amazement. "So many steps?"

Dong Xuebing laughed, "It doesn't matter much for a casual meal at home. However, traditional Beijing fried sauce noodles have their process. Beijing cuisine might not be the tastiest, the most unique, or the most popular, but it's all about the details—how you make it, how you eat it, and what you do afterward. Every step counts. If you miss even one part of the process, especially when serving guests, it's seen as disrespectful. So, Beijing cuisine is like drinking fine wine—there are specific steps to follow, from preparation to the end. It's all part of the experience."

Luo Haiting smiled, "I've learned something new today."

Once the noodles were ready, they quickly finished their meal. Luo Haiting seemed to enjoy the noodles, eating until they were complete and rubbing her stomach. "I overate too much. Phew."

Dong Xuebing laughed, "Need to walk it off?"

"Yes, I need to walk a bit." Luo Haiting got up and walked around the room.

While she was digesting, Dong Xuebing cleaned up, washed the dishes, and then returned to the north room after about ten minutes, but Luo Haiting was nowhere to be seen.

"Sister Luo?" Dong Xuebing called out softly, not wanting to wake the sleeping child.

"Yes?" Luo Haiting's voice came from another room, the bedroom on the right.

Dong Xuebing was surprised and went to check. He found Luo Haiting already under the covers. A chair nearby was covered with her clothes, including underwear and stockings.

Luo Haiting looked at him, "I'll sleep here tonight. If the child needs anything, call me."

Dong Xuebing swallowed hard. Unable to resist, he checked to ensure the child's room was quiet, then closed the door and quickly got into bed.

Luo Haiting didn't say a word; instead, she wrapped her arms around his waist. Overcome with desire, Dong Xuebing couldn't help but pounce on her, unable to wait any longer.

## Chapter 1704

Midnight.

Not sure what time it is.

Dong Xuebing seemed to hear a crying sound, whimpering. He didn't pay much attention, mainly because he was too used to living alone and was extremely sleepy. He turned over and continued sleeping. However, he felt like someone quickly crawled from the covers beside him. He also heard the hurried sound of slippers and a door opening. He slept for several hours straight, and when he finally opened his eyes, it was already light outside.

Morning.

Dong Xuebing stretched lazily, yawned, and sat up, still not quite awake. He just wondered how he ended up sleeping in the eastern room until he caught sight of the sticky condom lying on the floor. Only then did Dong Xuebing start to wake up a bit. He remembered that he had slept with Luo Haiting last night and that his daughter was still in the master bedroom on the left. Sweat, he had completely forgotten about sleeping. That crying last night must have been from Xiao Qianqian. Dong Xuebing realized belatedly, slapped himself on the forehead, and cursed himself a bit. He didn't act like a father at all. As soon as he was done with Sister Luo, he forgot everything.

Getting dressed.

Putting on pants.

Dong Xuebing rushed into the opposite room barefoot without putting on his slippers. He pushed open the door and was surprised to see Luo Haiting breastfeeding Xiao Qianqian.

Not with a bottle.

But by opening her clothes to breastfeed.

Dong Xuebing stared in astonishment, "Sister Luo."

"Awake now," Luo Haiting smiled slightly and turned her body slightly away, avoiding Dong Xuebing's gaze at her neckline.

Dong Xuebing said speechlessly, "You still have milk?"

Luo Haiting replied, "What milk?"

"Then why are you feeding Qianqian?" Dong Xuebing saw his daughter enjoying herself while nursing.

Luo Haiting smiled wryly, "I just finished feeding her with a bottle, but this little one is used to mother's milk and always wants to suckle a bit. There's nothing I can do, so I let her suckle." With that, Sister Luo yawned wearily, her eyes showing signs of fatigue.

Dong Xuebing said, "You were up in the middle of the night."

Luo Haiting nodded, "The little one wet herself, so I changed her diaper. After sleeping for too long, she wouldn't sleep anymore, so I played with her for a while."

Dong Xuebing sighed, "Look at the trouble this caused. I should have been taking care of the child. Instead, I let you struggle all night. Sorry, Sister Luo."

Luo Haiting smiled, "It's okay. I like kids, too."

At this moment, Xiao Qianqian saw her dad and immediately stopped nursing Luo Haiting. She giggled and eagerly reached out, calling, "Daddy, Daddy!"

Every time he heard this, Dong Xuebing felt his heart melt. He smiled, picked up his daughter, and casually glanced at Luo Haiting's half-exposed chest and partially unbuttoned bra. He coughed, averted his gaze, and said to his daughter, "Look at you causing trouble for Auntie Luo. Naughty girl, you already know how to bother people. Thank you, Auntie Luo, regardless of whether she understands."

Luo Haiting smiled and leaned in close. "Give Aunt Luo a kiss."

Xiao Qianqian blinked her big eyes at her, unmoved.

Dong Xuebing picked up the child and maneuvered her in front of Luo Haiting's face.

At a glance, Xiao Qianqian obediently kissed Luo Haiting's cheek. This delighted Luo Haiting, who kept patting Xiao Qianqian's little head. Finally, she even kissed the little one's chubby cheek. But Xiao Qianqian was capricious; she was cooing "nurse" to Luo Haiting. However, with her father's arrival, she no longer recognized Aunt Luo, immediately crawling into her father's arms, ignoring Aunt Luo.

"Daddy."

"Hey."

"Yaya."

"Haha, look how cute."

Dong Xuebing was overjoyed, showering his daughter with kisses.

Luo Haiting smiled and said, "I've changed her diaper and fed her. I even cleaned her up a bit when I had a moment. I don't think there's anything left to do, so I'll head to work first."

Dong Xuebing politely said, "Let's go together."

"That's not necessary." Luo Haiting declined and left.

Dong Xuebing knew he should avoid suspicion; they couldn't ride to work together every time. So he carried Qianqian out to see her off, saying, "Thanks again yesterday, Sister Luo."

"Don't mention it. If you need anything, just let me know." Luo Haiting added, "I may not be able to help with other things, but I'm okay with looking after a child."

Around eight o'clock.

Dong Xuebing let Xiao Qianqian play in the room while he went to the kitchen to make breakfast. Concerned about his daughter, he prepared just two eggs and mixed a bowl of milk powder that Sister Luo had bought for Qianqian. He hurried back to the room and was about to start eating. Qianqian was mischievous; her liveliness was evident even when she couldn't walk well. Now that she could walk and even run a little, her energy was even more apparent. When Dong Xuebing took to eat breakfast, Qianqian ran around the room four or five times, full of vitality. Like any child, her curiosity was intense. When she saw the stove she hadn't seen before, Qianqian reached out to touch

it. Dong Xuebing, seeing this, was so startled that he spit out the milk in his mouth, hastily rushing over to grab his daughter.

"What are you doing?"

"Yaya."

"Don't touch it. It's hot and could burn you."

"Yayayaya."

"Hey, Daddy will scold you if you don't listen."

Qianqian insisted on touching it, causing Dong Xuebing to furrow his brow in irritation. He didn't dare touch the stove; he'd researched it extensively online.

Qianqian persisted, and seeing her father upset, her eyes welled up with tears. She pouted, and with a cry of "wuwuwuwu," she started sobbing.

Dong Xuebing was at a loss. He had wanted to comfort his daughter, but he felt now wasn't the time. After all, safety was paramount. If he ignored this, it could lead to more significant problems in the future. He needed to make her understand, to scare her enough that she wouldn't dare touch such things again. Otherwise, Dong Xuebing would constantly worry as a father if his daughter didn't learn her lesson.

"Stop crying," Dong Xuebing said sternly, pointing at the stove. "You're not allowed to touch this thing anymore. Do you understand? It can burn your hands badly."

But Xiao Qianqian continued to cry loudly.

Dong Xuebing raised his hand as if to scold her. "I'll spank you."

Xiao Qianqian immediately ran off, ignoring her father.

Of course, Dong Xuebing couldn't bear to spank his daughter; he cherished her too much. He hurried to catch up and lifted her, saying, "Look at you, not listening. Daddy is doing this for your good. You can't touch that thing, and also these power strips, like this one. You must stay far away from them."

Xiao Qianqian was angry, turning her head away and ignoring him.

"This child," Dong Xuebing sighed helplessly. "Daddy loves you so much, yet you're angry with Daddy. It's all because your mother spoils you. Oh, Yunxuan."

"Yaya," Xiao Qianqian reached out and pulled her father's beard.

Dong Xuebing chuckled. "Oh, speaking ill of Mommy, huh?"

"Yaya yaya," Xiao Qianqian, in a hurry, grabbed her father's clothes, clearly upset.

Dong Xuebing smiled wryly. It was just something he said, and he knew Yunxuan was much better at educating children than he was. Plus, he hadn't been around the child much lately; Xiao Qianqian's growth was primarily thanks to Yunxuan. Dong Xuebing knew Aunt Xuan had it tough; it was surprising how quickly Xiao Qianqian seemed to understand his words. She might not express herself well, but Dong Xuebing knew he had to be more careful with what he said in the future.

Not yet nine o'clock.

The office, the compound.

Naturally, Dong Xuebing couldn't leave his daughter alone at home. He had just taken on a new position and couldn't take a week off. So he had to bring his daughter along. However, on the way there, Xiao Qianqian was still upset with Dong Xuebing, pouting the entire time. Dong Xuebing drove with one hand on the steering wheel and tried to coax her with the other, but Qianqian ignored him. This little one knew how to hold a grudge.

Dong Xuebing could only smile wryly. When they arrived and exited the car, he ran into several colleagues heading to work.

"Director Dong."

"Good morning."

"Oh, a baby!"

"So adorable! Who is this?"

Han Fei's eyes lit up with great affection as she approached, reaching out to play with the baby in Director Dong's arms. "Good girl, why are you so cute?"

Zhang Lili also walked over. "She's so beautiful; she'll grow up to be even more beautiful."

Yin Cheng'an also got out of the car. "Hey, Director Dong, whose child is this? I thought you had a son."

Dong Xuebing was pleased and introduced proudly, "This is my goddaughter, Qianqian. Her mother is on a business trip, so I'm looking after her. Isn't she beautiful? Haha, Han, don't touch her randomly."

Han Fei was utterly charmed. "I just want to touch her a little."

Qianqian inherited Quxuan's beauty completely. She did not resemble Dong Xuebing at all and was incredibly attractive. When Dong Xuebing used to bring her to work, she was loved by everyone and very popular.

Dong Xuebing was satisfied as he introduced Qianqian to everyone.

Xiao Qianqian ignored her father but was interested in other uncles and aunts. She wasn't shy and giggled at everyone who approached, reaching out with her chubby hands to touch them, which was adorable.

They went upstairs.

Everyone returned to their respective offices.

As soon as they entered, Han Fei eagerly said, "Director Dong, let me hold Qianqian. I love children so much; she's too cute. Let me hold her for a bit."

Dong Xuebing frowned. "Just be careful not to drop her."

"Oh, don't worry," Han Fei assured him. "I won't. You have more important things to do. I'll take care of her."

Dong Xuebing couldn't relax completely, but after thinking about it, he handed Qianqian over to her, reminding her repeatedly. Being a father was never easy.

Chapter 1705

It was past nine o'clock.

It's time for work.

Dong Xuebing sat in his office, handling documents, flipping through them individually, signing where needed, and processing the rest.

Outside, sounds kept coming in.

"The little one is really cute."

"Hehe, not afraid of people at all."

"Nice, let me hold her too."

"Shh, keep it down, don't let Director Dong hear."

"You guys keep working. I'll hold her since I'm done."

Whether it was because of Dong Xuebing's status or because everyone genuinely liked Xiao Qianqian, everyone seemed to be vying to hold her. Xiao Qianqian was laughing joyfully and giggling nonstop. She seemed to be having a great time with everyone and was very happy.

Upon hearing this, Dong Xuebing didn't mind. He indeed had a lot to do, and given his poor relationship with Fang Wenping, he couldn't afford to let his superiors catch him slacking. So, he focused on finishing his work, not having time to care for the child. With them looking after her, he felt much more at ease.

After a while.

"Wah wah wah"

"Ah, why is she crying?"

"Let me see, oh, she wet herself."

"The diaper? It's right here. Director Dong left them here."

"I'll take her to the bathroom to change her. You all don't need to worry."

Among the older ones, Zhang Lili took on the task. Only she and Luo Haiting had experience in this area. Luo Haiting was busy in the office, just as swamped as Dong Xuebing, so naturally, it fell to Zhang Lili. Han Fei was eager to volunteer, but she was a young, unmarried woman and not as experienced as Zhang Lili. No one objected.

Dong Xuebing heard the commotion inside. He didn't trust Xiao Han, but he did trust Zhang Lili, so he continued his work.

About ten minutes later.

Zhang Lili suddenly returned, "It's bad, it's bad!"

"What's wrong, Sister Zhang?" Han Fei asked curiously, "Where's the baby?"

Zhang Lili said urgently, "I ran into Director Fang Wenping in the bathroom. She asked whose child it was, and I said it was Director Dong's relative. Then Director Fang criticized me, saying who allowed bringing a child to the workplace and talked about principles and regulations."

Han Fei was stunned, "Then what?"

Zhang Lili said, "Then Director Fang said to give her the child. She took Xiao Qianqian away. I wanted to stop her, but I didn't have the authority."

Han Fei angrily said, "Director Fang is unreasonable!"

Upon hearing this, Luo Haiting also came out of the office. "Director Fang took the child away?"

Zhang Lili nodded, "I had just changed Qianqian's diaper... it's all my fault, sigh."

Dong Xuebing heard this and pushed the door open, coming out with a very dark expression, "Where is Qianqian? In which office?"

Zhang Lili said, "I don't know. She should be in Director Fang's office."

Dong Xuebing was furious and quickly rushed out of the office despite Luo Haiting and Zhang Lili trying to stop him. Director Dong looked like he was going to settle scores. Damn it, you can give me trouble, but giving my daughter trouble is unacceptable. Don't talk to me about rules. Everyone has their issues. Bringing a child here, so what? I can't leave her on the street, can I? This is simply unreasonable!

"Director Dong!"

"Director Dong, please don't—"

Dong Xuebing had already left.

In front of the Director's Office of the Ninth Office.

Dong Xuebing didn't even knock. He turned the handle and pushed the door open. His temper was well-known, especially when it involved his daughter. He was about to lash out, but when he saw the scene inside, the words caught in his throat, and he was momentarily stunned.

Fang Wenping was there.

Xiao Qianqian was also there.

Dong Xuebing didn't expect that Fang Wenping was holding Xiao Qianqian on her lap with a look of motherly love and affection, playing with her. Xiao Qianqian's dirty little shoes were stepping on Fang Wenping's leg, leaving footprints on her pants, but Fang Wenping didn't seem to mind.

"Yaya."

"Say 'Auntie.'"

"Yayayaya."

"Come on, say 'Auntie.'"

"Ah-ah-yi."

"Good job, almost there. Say it all together."

"Ah-yi."

She almost managed to say it.

Fang Wenping was very happy and kissed Xiao Qianqian on the forehead, saying, "So obedient, how can Auntie not like you so much?" Then she noticed Dong Xuebing, who had just entered, and her expression instantly changed to cold and indifferent. "I told you last time, didn't I? Don't you know how to knock? This is my office, not your home. Go outside and knock before coming in."

Dong Xuebing glared, "You took my goddaughter, and expect me to knock?"

"Who allowed you to bring a child to work?" Fang Wenping replied coldly. "Don't you know the rules?"

This revealed whose child Xiao Qianqian was. Even though she had been playing happily with Auntie Fang, she got upset as soon as she heard Fang Wenping scold her dad. She started wriggling and grabbed Fang Wenping's sweater, even pulling off one of the decorative buttons.

"Daddy, Daddy!" Xiao Qianqian called out.

Dong Xuebing was deeply moved. Look at that: the little one still loves her dad. He quickly took two steps forward, "Daddy's here, Daddy's here."

Xiao Qianqian waved her arms, "Daddy, Daddy, Daddy."

Dong Xuebing knew she wanted him to hold her, so he stepped forward to take her.

But Fang Wenping didn't let go. She quickly said to the child, "Auntie was wrong, Auntie was wrong. Don't be upset. Can I hold you a bit longer?"

Xiao Qianqian wasn't having it and wanted her dad.

Fang Wenping said, "Are you mad at Auntie now? Okay, okay, Auntie won't scold your dad anymore, alright? Let Auntie give you another kiss."

Xiao Qianqian looked at her but didn't make a sound.

Fang Wenping leaned down and kissed her cheek.

Seeing Fang Wenping like this, Dong Xuebing paused and didn't go to pick up his daughter. He suddenly found this side of Fang Wenping quite endearing, with that motherly look on her face. Dong Xuebing was a bit touched, not expecting this side of Fang Wenping.

"Say 'Auntie' one more time."

"Ah-yi."

"Good girl, hehe."

It seemed Fang Wenping liked children.

Seeing her affectionate with his daughter, Dong Xuebing's anger subsided, "Director Fang, should I take Qianqian back now?"



Fang Wenping glanced at him and coldly said, "I'll return her to you in the afternoon. Bringing a child to the office is against the rules. I'll look after her for now. You can go back."

Dong Xuebing was speechless.

Fang Wenping said, "Close the door on your way out."

Chapter 1706

Morning.

In the Second Section.

Dong Xuebing returned empty-handed.

"Chief Dong."

"Where's Qianqian? Why hasn't she come back?"

"Director Fang took the child somewhere."

Zhang Lili, Han Fei, and others immediately showed concern.

Dong Xuebing waved his hand lightly. "It's okay; everyone gets back to work. Finish up those work plans; I'll review them in the afternoon. Hurry up."

Han Fei said, "But Qianqian—"

Dong Xuebing went straight into his office.

Han Fei was quite surprised. She knew Director Dong's personality, having interacted with him these days. Why didn't he get angry today?

Noon.

Everyone went downstairs to the cafeteria for lunch.

Then, Han Fei, Zhang Lili, and others finally understood why Dong Xuebing wasn't angry and hadn't mentioned the child being "taken away." Inside the cafeteria, Fang Wenping brought little Qianqian along, hand in hand. To accommodate the little one's height, Fang Wenping consciously bent slightly at the waist, her big hand holding Qianqian's chubby little hand as they walked forward. They queued up for food at the window, then sat at a table near the heater. They didn't even pay attention to their own meals; instead, they happily fed Qianqian. Sometimes, when the meat chunks were too big, Fang Wenping would chew on them first before carefully feeding them to the baby.

The maternal love was evident.

Everyone in the cafeteria was amazed, staring at Fang Wenping in disbelief. They couldn't believe this notorious disciplinary committee member, known for her bad temper and abrasive personality, could smile so happily.

Bad-tempered.

Abrasive personality.

Never give anyone a friendly face.

That was everyone's impression of Fang Wenping.

So, this scene truly overturned everyone's senses.

"Whose child is that?"

"Director Fang has a child now?"

"I didn't know. I haven't heard about it."

"It's not Director Fang's child. It seems to be Chief Dong's relative's daughter."

"That's right. I saw it this morning. Chief Dong brought the child here from the Second Section."

"Sigh. No wonder Director Fang likes her. She's at such an age and still doesn't have a child. Her ex-husband even got her into prison, so..."

"Mainly because this baby is so cute."

"Yes, really adorable. How could she be so cute?"

The people in the cafeteria were all discussing animatedly, pointing over at Fang Wenping and the child.

But Fang Wenping didn't care at all. She didn't seem to see or hear them, wearing an indulgent smile as she fed Qianqian. She occasionally teased her, and Qianqian sat in Fang Wenping's arms, giggling incessantly. After spending the morning together, it seemed like she had bonded well with Fang Wenping. She seemed to like this aunt-like figure, giggling happily and occasionally acting coquettish towards Fang Wenping, looking particularly cute.

Dong Xuebing saw this but didn't go over to their table; they didn't even say a word. He found another place to sit down and eat. He feared that if he went over and talked to Fang Wenping, they would end up arguing again. That wouldn't look good, especially since Dong Xuebing had just been disciplined. It wasn't about avoiding trouble but consciously avoiding conflict with Fang Wenping, at least not letting everyone see it. After all, Fang Wenping was now Dong Xuebing's immediate superior, and since Old Fang cared so much for Qianqian, Dong Xuebing didn't have any worries. If she wanted to hold her, let her hold her.

After lunch,

Watching Fang Wenping and little Qianqian walk away hand in hand with smiles, Dong Xuebing didn't mention bringing the child back. Back in his office, he had many things waiting to be done, so he got busy immediately. He had been leisurely for several months since joining the Commission for Discipline Inspection, either on leave or watching movies in the office. Now Dong Xuebing had to make up for lost time, concentrating all his energy on work. Since arriving at the office in the morning, he hadn't had a moment's rest.

One hour passed.

Two hours passed.

Three hours passed.

Work was done by the time the afternoon ended.

Dong Xuebing stretched lazily. "Director Dong, everything's organized," Zhang Lili knocked on the door and handed over a few things.

"Let me take a look," Dong Xuebing said, flipping through the documents. "Alright, that's it for today. Everyone, go home early. We'll discuss the rest tomorrow."

"Okay, then I'll leave first," Zhang Lili smiled.

Han Fei said, "Director Dong, I'm off too."

"Take care on the way," Dong Xuebing waved goodbye to everyone.

After Luo Haiting left, Dong Xuebing was the only one left in the office. It's not that he didn't want to leave early, but he had to go to Fang Wenping's office to pick up the child. He had just called over, but there was no answer from Fang Wenping's office. Dong Xuebing thought she might be out on business or in the restroom, so he waited in the office area. It was nearly 7:30 pm when Dong Xuebing made another call, but there was still no answer. Frustrated, he strode towards Fang Wenping's office. He tried the door, but it was locked. Knocking on it yielded no response either.

"Damn it. Did she leave after work?"

"Where's my child? Where did she take my child?"

Dong Xuebing was anxious. Everyone else might think this was Dong Xuebing's adopted daughter or a relative's daughter, but only Dong Xuebing knew she was his daughter. How could he not be worried?

"Fang Wenping!" Dong Xuebing shouted in the corridor.

At that moment, a female clerk walked over. "Director Dong, you haven't left yet."

Dong Xuebing suppressed his anger. "Where's Director Fang? Why isn't she in her office?"

"Director Fang left around six o'clock. I saw her leave. Um, she was also carrying a cute baby."

"She left early?"

"Damn it. Why did she take my child?"

Dong Xuebing was furious. "What's her phone number?"

"Um, I'm not sure about that. Let me go find out for you." The female clerk dared not delay. After all, Dong Xuebing was also a high-ranking official of a significant department. She promptly led him to a computer, quickly found Director Fang's phone number, and informed Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing didn't have Fang Wenping's phone number. As a director-level inspector and the head of the Second Section, I found it impossible not to know the leader's number. However, Dong Xuebing was an exception. He had called Fang Wenping more than once, so why did he forget to ask for her phone number this time? Considering his pride, Dong Xuebing wouldn't ask anyone else for it.

He went downstairs.

He got into his car.

Dong Xuebing made a call.

Ring, ring, the phone connected. "Hello?"

"It's Dong Xuebing." Dong Xuebing got straight to the point, his tone tinged with irritation.

"Where's Xiao Qianqian?"

"I have her here." Fang Wenping's tone wasn't pleasant either.

Dong Xuebing exploded, "Who allowed you to take my child away?"

Fang Wenping retorted, "Isn't she your relative's child? Why are you getting so worked up?"

"And now you're trying to justify yourself!" Dong Xuebing angrily continued, "You took my child away, spouting rules and regulations. You said you'd give me the child in the afternoon, but you left after work without a word. What are you playing at?"

Fang Wenping justified herself firmly, "What do you mean by leaving without a word? I called your office earlier, and no one picked up. Oh, so you expect me to look for a subordinate's number? You implied that I should have called again, but I made my judgment. Besides, the child likes me, so I took her out for food and fun. What's the problem with that?"

Dong Xuebing fumed, "I was out. Couldn't you have called again?"

"No need. It wasn't necessary." Fang Wenping dismissed him, "I'm having dinner with the child now. Come to my residential compound if you want to pick her up tonight."

"You're looking for trouble, aren't you?" Dong Xuebing accused.

"I don't have time to argue with you." Fang Wenping hung up.

Dong Xuebing was so angry he nearly threw his phone. This Fang Wenping—she's just trying to provoke me. She took my child away and now acts all self-righteous.

It was past eight o'clock.

Night had fallen.

Dong Xuebing didn't even return home. After a distracted meal outside, he went to the Discipline Inspection Commission's residential compound and directly to Fang Wenping's. He got the building and floor number from the security guard, who recognized him and didn't hide anything.

Bang, bang, Dong Xuebing knocked on the door from outside.

Footsteps approached, and the door opened from inside. Fang Wenping, in a long-sleeved pajama, frowned and opened the door, not even looking at Dong Xuebing. She turned and returned inside, saying, "Close the door."

Dong Xuebing entered and slammed the door behind him, making a loud noise.

Fang Wenping was irritated. "Could you be quieter? You're scaring the child."

Dong Xuebing confronted her, "Who are you to be concerned? She's not your child."

"With your irresponsible attitude, your relatives should reconsider leaving their child with you," Fang Wenping coldly remarked. "They've been blind."

Dong Xuebing retorted, "That's none of your business."

"The child calls me Auntie, so it does concern me. Such an adorable child. Having you look after her, something will go wrong sooner or later," Fang Wenping scoffed.

Dong Xuebing's anger peaked, "Do you think you know better than me how to care for a child?"

"Don't boast. Just look at yourself. Do you look like someone who knows how to care for a child?" Fang Wenping challenged.

"Have you ever taken care of a child?" Dong Xuebing felt the sting of her words. He snorted, clearly unwilling to admit it.

"My niece Xiao Ling was under my care since she was little. My brother and sister-in-law were busy with work. You can ask Xiao Ling. I changed her diapers. Don't joke with me that I haven't taken care of a child," Fang Wenping asserted.

Chapter 1707

Late...

Family courtyard.

Fang Wenping's home.

Sure enough, Dong Xuebing and Fang Wenping couldn't meet without arguing. Whenever they met, they couldn't avoid quarreling. Their temperaments were too similar, not to mention identical. They both disliked each other and found fault with each other.

"Where's Qianqian?"

"In the room."

"Where in the room?"

"Find her yourself."

"You stay aside, stay aside."

Dong Xuebing searched for a long time and finally saw Qianqian sitting on the wooden floor outside the bedroom, playing with toys. The little one was holding a small toy cart, playing happily. She babbled happily, clumsily manipulating the cart, pushing it hard to move it forward. Sometimes, she almost threw it out, then clumsily chased after it, picking it up again and continuing to push it. She was extremely cheerful.

Dong Xuebing was furious at first sight. He squatted in front of his daughter and glared at her fiercely. "Didn't Daddy tell you not to take things from strangers? Do you dare take anyone's things? Did Daddy tell you to take it?"

Qianqian looked at her father and pouted.

Dong Xuebing said, "Put it down. Come home with Daddy."

Qianqian seemed to understand, babbling and refusing to let Dong Xuebing hold her.

Fang Wenping coldly said from the side, "The child doesn't want to go with you. Why are you forcing her?"

"Hey, you little thing, I can't control you." Dong Xuebing was angry and forcefully picked up Qianqian. "Let's go."

Qianqian cried out loudly.

Dong Xuebing glared, "Cry again, and I'll spank you."

Unexpectedly, upon hearing this, Qianqian cried even harder. Waaah, waaah, waaah, it seemed that the neighbors upstairs and downstairs could hear her.

Dong Xuebing clicked his tongue. "Why don't you listen to Daddy?"

Fang Wenping was also furious. "What kind of father are you? Why are you tormenting the child? Who are you scaring?"

Ignoring her, Dong Xuebing looked at his daughter. "Are you coming with Daddy or not?"

Qianqian looked at her father, made a sound, and then turned her head away as if angry with Dong Xuebing. It was pretty cute.

Dong Xuebing became even more frustrated. "Fine. Let me tell you, if you don't come with me, don't look for Daddy again. Daddy doesn't want you anymore."

Qianqian still ignored him. It seemed she was still angry with Daddy. Dong Xuebing had been harsh with her in the morning, and the little one still held a grudge.

Fang Wenping couldn't stand it. "Who are you threatening?"

Dong Xuebing shouted, "I'm asking you again. Are you coming or not?"

Fang Wenping saw that Xiao Qianqian was scared, and her neck shrunk. Feeling sorry for her, she quickly comforted her, "Don't be afraid; it's okay. If you hear him shouting, ignore him. At my place, Fang Wenping's place, he won't dare to cause trouble. Auntie is here. No one will bully you. Be good, don't be afraid. Today, you'll stay here with Auntie. Let him shout by himself."

Dong Xuebing said, "I'm telling you, aren't you causing trouble?"

Fang Wenping looked at him and said, "Does anyone else talk to children like you do?"

"Everyone has different ways of teaching. How I talk is my business." Dong Xuebing moved to grab the child. He was still waiting to take Xiao Qianqian home.

But Xiao Qianqian, seeing this, burst into tears again.

Fang Wenping refused even more, holding the child and avoiding Dong Xuebing, saying, "Let go of her."

Xiao Qianqian clung to Fang Wenping, rubbing her head against her and refusing to leave.

Dong Xuebing glanced and knew he couldn't do anything. Frustrated, he was left alone. Even though he was annoyed, he couldn't leave the child behind. Despite his dissatisfaction, Dong Xuebing couldn't abandon the child.

"Ignore him, play with Auntie."

"Yaya"

"Auntie will play with your toy car, okay?"

"Yaya"

"Okay, then call me."

"Ah"

"Well, call again."

"Ah"

"You're so good. Come with Auntie, and I will play with you."

Seeing the two of them go to the bedroom to play, Dong Xuebing hummed in the kitchen, feeling extremely uncomfortable. After cooking a simple meal, he ate it angrily in the kitchen. He muttered while eating, "This Fang Wenping is bad. She shouted at me loudly this morning, and my daughter was so anxious she desperately turned to me, her dad. Less than a day later, my daughter has been completely spoiled by her."

After finishing eating, in line with Dong Xuebing's usual politeness, he usually cleaned up the dishes after eating at someone else's house. But today, he didn't care, throwing the dishes and chopsticks into the sink and casually walking out. No one was in the living room, and there was no sound from the bedroom. Dong Xuebing slowly walked in.

Pushing open the door.

"Xiao Qianqian." Dong Xuebing had just called out when he froze the next moment.

He saw Fang Wenping holding the baby, and Xiao Qianqian was sucking Fang Wenping's "milk" loudly, eating it with relish. The neckline was also open, and the pure white bra was pulled down, with Xiao Qianqian's face buried in Fang Wenping's plump right breast.

It was exposed.

Dong Xuebing saw everything in a glance.

Fang Wenping's face darkened. "What are you looking at?"

Dong Xuebing felt guilty but didn't argue, quickly closed the door on them, and went to the living room. However, his mind was still on Fang Wenping's white breasts.

So white.

And they looked very soft.

Dong Xuebing couldn't help but swallow saliva.

He also knew that Xiao Qianqian had this problem. In the morning, she had sucked on Luo Haiting's chest for half the morning. Who would have thought that he would now get this benefit?

Chapter 1708

The next day.

Early in the morning, upon waking up.

Dong Xuebing was awakened by a phone call, or more accurately, by his daughter's crying after she heard the phone ring.

"Hello?"

"Xuebing."

"Who is this?"

"It's me, Yu Meixia."

"Oh, Sister Yu, I was just sleeping."

"I know. I have something to ask you."

"Alright, go ahead, what is it?"

"Somebody wants me to act in a movie, saying my appearance fits their next film."

"Acting in a movie? Is it reliable? Don't tell me you're being scammed again. There are so many scammers nowadays. Did they ask for money? How much did you pay?"

"They didn't ask for money, so it must be real."

"How do you know it's a legitimate film company?"

"I am in Beijing, and I have visited their company, it's quite big. I've seen the producers and investors, too. I had a friend check them out. Their credentials match, with photos identical to them. It's genuine, and they've made many movies."

"Are they offering you the lead role?"

"No, it seems to be a supporting role."

"That's not bad then."

"If you say okay, I will go."

"You should check it out first and be smart about it."

"Alright, I understand. Today is the audition. I don't know if I'll pass. If I do, I will call you again."

"Why are you suddenly interested in acting?"

"I can't always rely on you. Qian Qian will be taking the college entrance exams next year. I want to earn money for her tuition. It's not right to keep taking your money."

"You're too polite."

"It's not about being polite, it's different."

"Okay, if you want to go, go ahead."

After hanging up, Dong Xuebing wasn't sleepy anymore. He yawned and got up. Regarding Yu Meixia's matter, Dong Xuebing wasn't surprised. Big Sister Yu was exceptionally beautiful and remarkably virtuous too. Though she might not have much acting skill, playing a role that suited her natural demeanor wouldn't be a problem. As for why Yu Meixia didn't want to spend her own money was probably a matter of her pride, which Dong Xuebing understood.

"Wow!" Little Qian Qian was still crying.

Dong Xuebing quickly picked up his daughter and kissed her several times. "Good girl, don't cry. Daddy is here. Let's go, it's not early, let's go to work with Daddy." Last night, Dong Xuebing didn't



return to the courtyard until around ten o'clock. Instead, he went straight to the family housing compound. Mainly because Fang Wenping was too fond of little Qian Qian, and she wouldn't let go. Little Qian Qian also liked her a lot. The big and small ones were very affectionate; if it hadn't been so late, Dong Xuebing would have stayed there, and tongues would have been wagging.

...

Nine o'clock.

Time for work.

This time, Dong Xuebing didn't dare to have someone else take care of his child. He carried Qian Qian straight into his office, let her sit on his lap, and started working like that.

"Oops!"

"Daddy!"

"Oops! Oops!"

Little Qian Qian was too naughty, always causing trouble for Dong Xuebing in his office. Whenever she saw a pen or some documents, she would reach out to grab them. She would cry loudly enough for people downstairs to hear if she weren't given. Dong Xuebing could only laugh helplessly. He couldn't get anything done; he could only play and pacify his child for over an hour. In the end, unable to do anything else, Dong Xuebing had to put little Qian Qian down on the floor to play by herself. Fortunately, there were no dangerous items in the office, so Dong Xuebing wasn't worried.

Morning.

It's almost time for lunch.

Dong Xuebing checked the time on his watch, and he was nearly finished with his work. He happily put it aside and spent time playing with his lively daughter. Dong Xuebing always felt a sense of pride whenever he saw his daughter. This little one was so beautiful from a young age; she would surely be material for a big star when she grew up. Just look at the people in the unit; who wouldn't like Little Qian Qian? She was star material. Thinking about stars, Dong Xuebing suddenly remembered Yu Meixia and wondered how her interview had gone.

Let's ask.

Dong Xuebing dialed Yu Meixia's number.

Ring, ring, ring... but no one answered after a long wait.

Dong Xuebing furrowed his brow. Sister Yu never ignored his calls, almost always picking up after one or two rings. Today was indeed unusual. Dong Xuebing figured she might be outside on the street and didn't hear the phone.

About five minutes later.

Ring, ring, ring... Yu Meixia's call came back.

Dong Xuebing answered, "Hello, Sister Yu, how was the audition? Did you pass?"

But Yu Meixia's voice on the other end was low and urgent, "Xuebing, you... come pick me up quickly, I... I..."

Dong Xuebing was taken aback, "What's wrong?"

Yu Meixia hurriedly said, "Please come pick me up!"

"Where are you?" Dong Xuebing could tell something was wrong with Sister Yu, his expression tightening. "Tell me slowly what happened, don't be afraid, I'm here!"

Yu Meixia softly replied, "I'm at their company. During the audition today, there were many people. However, when I auditioned, it was supervised by a middle-aged man who seemed to be an investor. He asked me to act in a scene, and I didn't know what happened. I said okay, but then he said... he wanted a kissing scene and asked me to kiss him... I... I disagreed; he got impatient and even cursed at me, which was very rude. Finally, that investor insisted on showing me how to do the kissing scene. I was scared, so I quickly opened the door and ran away. I am in the women's restroom at their company, I... I dare not come out. I heard someone outside calling; I don't know if they're looking for me!"

"He didn't take advantage of you, did he?" Dong Xuebing took a breath.

"Not yet... I ran away," Yu Meixia said.

Dong Xuebing was instantly furious, "He asked you to perform a kissing scene? Damn it! Is he tired of living? I'm going to give him a beating!" Dong Xuebing always resorted to strong language when angered. "Don't be afraid, Sister Yu, I'm here! Damn it all!"

Yu Meixia whispered, "Xuebing, please come quickly!"

"Okay! I'm coming right away! Tell me the company's address!" Dong Xuebing quickly grabbed a notebook and wrote it down. Then he said, "Don't panic, don't be scared. Stay in the restroom, lock the door from the inside for safety. I'll be there in ten minutes!"

"Okay, okay." Yu Meixia sounded panicked, too. She was originally from the countryside and particularly honest and gentle, often at a loss in such situations.

The call ended.

Dong Xuebing put away his phone with a grim expression. Among the people he cared about, Yu Meixia was the one he cared about the most. She had the most pitiable background and a somewhat timid personality. Despite being older than him, Dong Xuebing couldn't help but look after her. With a serious face, Dong Xuebing bent down to pick up little Qian Qian from the floor. "No more playing, Qian Qian. Daddy has to go out for something."

Everyone noticed that Dong Xuebing's expression was wrong when he was leaving.

"Director Dong, are you..." They could see something was off.

But Dong Xuebing didn't answer directly. He asked, "Where's Director Luo?"

Zhang Lili said, "Director Luo went out for business. It's been an hour. She probably won't be back until the afternoon. What do you need... Should I call Director Luo back?"

"Call her back now? It's too late for that!" Dong Xuebing didn't say anything more. He left the office area and headed straight to Fang Wenping's office. It was strange indeed—among everyone in the Ninth Office, Dong Xuebing trusted Luo Haiting the most. She was experienced, and he felt completely at ease leaving his child with her. Zhang Lili was also trustworthy, but Dong Xuebing wasn't as confident in her for some reason. Conversely, he felt surprisingly reassured with Fang

Wenping, whom Dong Xuebing had deeper conflicts with and didn't particularly like. Relationships between people were complex, and trust was often difficult to explain.

At the entrance to the director's office.

Still, without knocking, Dong Xuebing pushed the door open and entered.

Inside, Fang Wenping was in conversation with another cadre. Seeing Dong Xuebing enter without knocking, her expression soured, clearly displeased.

The other cadre, obviously of lower rank than Dong Xuebing, sensed the atmosphere and excused himself tactfully, closing the door behind him as he left.

"What's the matter?" Fang Wenping didn't give him a friendly look.

Dong Xuebing put down his child. "I need to go out for something. Can you look after Qian Qian for me?"

Fang Wenping's expression darkened. "Am I indebted to you, or is your home's nanny? Do I manage your affairs? You're not very polite."

Dong Xuebing was already impatient. "I have urgent business!"

"Are you not coming back this afternoon? Then consider yourself absent for the day!" Fang Wenping said coldly.

"Write it down however you like! Can you take care of my child or not?" Dong Xuebing retorted.

Fang Wenping stared at him coldly. "...Go on then."

Dong Xuebing squatted, speaking gently to his daughter, "Daddy needs to go out. Auntie Fang will take care of you today, okay?"

Little Qian Qian babbled in response, seemingly unsure if she understood.

Dong Xuebing couldn't worry about it anymore. "Listen to Auntie Fang, behave yourself. Daddy's leaving!" With that, he nudged his daughter gently.

Little Qian Qian blinked her eyes and awkwardly and clumsily toddled toward Fang Wenping.

Fang Wenping stood to greet her, her previously reluctant expression softening into a gentle smile. She bent down to lift Qian Qian, kissing her cheeks a few times, once on each side. "Ignore your dad and play in Auntie's office, okay?"

"Ah! Yi!" Qian Qian giggled happily.

"Hehe! Such a good girl!"

"Giggle! Ah! Ah!"

Soon, Qian Qian happily played with Fang Wenping.

Only then did Dong Xuebing relax. Seeing this, he closed the door and turned away, his expression darkening.

Chapter 1709

Noon...

Near Shuangjing.

Following the address given by Yu Meixia, Dong Xuebing found the company. He looked at the six or seven-story office building and didn't bother parking in the parking lot. Instead, he drove straight to the company's entrance, screeched to a halt, swung open the car door, and stepped out.

"Hey, mister."

"Sir, you can't park here."

"Please park in the underground parking lot."

Several staff members were taken aback and reminded him.

But Dong Xuebing ignored them, leaving the car right at their entrance. He pushed open the glass door in front of him and strode in.

"What are you doing?"

"Hey, your car!"

Staff members continued calling after him.

But perhaps because they saw he was driving a top-of-the-line Land Rover model, their tone wasn't too harsh. They continued reminding him.

Dong Xuebing couldn't care less about them. Once inside, he headed straight for the elevator.

At this moment, a security guard heard the commotion. He turned his head and quickly walked over. "Sir, you haven't registered yet."

Dong Xuebing retorted, "I'll register your damn."

"How dare you speak like that?" The security guard was angered. "Who are you looking for?"

Dong Xuebing shouted, "Mind your own damn business, get out of my way!"

The furious security guard stepped forward to block him. "No one can enter without an appointment."

Ding, the elevator arrived. Several people who presumably worked in the building looked curiously at Dong Xuebing, then entered the elevator one after another.

Dong Xuebing had no time to waste arguing with the security guard. He was still worried about Sister Yu's current situation. Yu Meixia had almost been taken advantage of, and Dong Xuebing had no good impression of this company. His anger had been brewing all the way here. Moreover, the security guard had provoked him, so Dong Xuebing wasted no more words. Seeing the elevator was about to leave and the security guard still blocking his way, Dong Xuebing kicked out with one foot.

Bang!

The security guard was kicked out.

Anyone familiar with Dong Xuebing knew this was his signature move. Whenever he got into a dispute, his first action was always this:

A kick.

A fierce kick.

Extremely skillful.

People around were dumbfounded.

"Ah!"

"Why did he hit him?"

"He hit him, he hit him!"

Many employees from various companies shouted out.

However, Dong Xuebing calmly entered the elevator, paying no attention to the stares from those inside. He pressed the button for the fifth floor without hesitation.

Outside was chaotic.

But the elevator doors closed.

The elevator maintained a tense atmosphere as it ascended floor by floor. Ding, the elevator doors opened. Dong Xuebing stepped out on the fifth floor. Three people who might have wanted to watch the commotion or were going to this floor followed from afar.

They didn't expect this young man to head straight for the restroom.

And even more surprising, after entering, he turned left and boldly pushed open the door to the women's restroom.

"Oh my god."

"What's he doing?"

"Who is this, and what's he up to?"

The three people looked at each other in bewilderment, their minds unable to catch up.

Dong Xuebing paid no attention to any of this. All he knew was that Sister Yu was in danger. Dong Xuebing's anger was now unstoppable, and in places like these, women's restrooms usually had stall doors. Even if there were other people inside, he didn't care. Right now, his only concern was Yu Meixia.

"Sister Yu!"

"Sister Yu!"

"Where are you?"

Dong Xuebing shouted three times in a row.

A female colleague who had just pulled up her pants to come out was scared stiff. She hastily closed the door again and screamed, "Dirty hooligan!"

Then, the door to the innermost stall slowly creaked open. Yu Meixia cautiously poked her head out. When she saw Dong Xuebing, her eyes reddened with excitement, and tears of grievance and fear trickled down. "Xuebing, I..."

Dong Xuebing hurried over. "Are you okay?"

"I'm fine, I'm fine." Yu Meixia wiped her tears.

Dong Xuebing felt distressed. "Don't cry. Don't be afraid. Now that I'm here, you don't need to worry. Damn it. How bold of them!"

Yu Meixia said, "It's alright, Xuebing. I there's nothing wrong."

Dong Xuebing angrily said, "How can you say there's nothing wrong? You're just being clever. Otherwise, who knows what could have happened? They even dared to try something as ridiculous as a kissing scene."

"Xuebing, we..."

"You don't have to worry about it. Leave it to me."

"No need, just take me away."

"How can that be? I have to deal with them properly."

Dong Xuebing had such a temper. If someone dared to provoke him, how could they possibly end well? Dong Xuebing wasn't someone to be trifled with. Whoever crossed him would be unlucky. "Let's go. Come with me back to that office. I'll find out who's responsible for trying to force a kissing scene on you today."

With that, Dong Xuebing pulled Yu Meixia out of the restroom. Several onlookers were outside, who kept their distance as soon as they saw them coming out.

Yu Meixia weakly pointed to an office over there.

Dong Xuebing didn't bother knocking on the door. With his signature move, he kicked the door open.

Bang!

The door handle twisted.

But inside the room, there was no one. It was empty.

"Where are they?" Dong Xuebing's face darkened.

"I don't know either. They were just... here." Yu Meixia said.

When she said "just," that was half an hour ago, the person had already left.

At that moment, the woman who had encountered Dong Xuebing in the women's restroom just a minute ago walked out. She had probably overheard their conversation and knew roughly what had happened. "Excuse me, are you the one who came for an audition and was bullied?" she asked.

Yu Meixia softly replied with a sound of agreement.

The woman understood the situation. She had just cursed Dong Xuebing as a dirty hooligan, but now she didn't make a fuss anymore. She knew there must have been a reason for Dong Xuebing's rush into the women's restroom. Moreover, she kindly said, "I also came for an audition. Those bastards are too much. They demanded this and that. Damn it, I'm done catering to them. Let me tell you, sister, those guys just went to the restaurant downstairs for lunch. I overheard one of them making a phone call just now. They left less than ten minutes ago. If you're looking for them, go to the restaurant."

Dong Xuebing immediately said, "Thank you very much."

The woman said, "You're welcome. But those investors are not easy to deal with. You..."

Chapter 1710

Upstairs.

At the elevator entrance.

Dong Xuebing pulled Yu Meixia into the elevator and they descended to the ground floor.

"Xuebing."

"What's up?"

"Let's just forget about this."

"I can't. This isn't over!"

"You're now with the Discipline Inspection Commission, don't..."

"Don't worry about me. I've even hit leaders before. I'm still standing here, fine; what's the big deal about this little thing?"

"But..."

"Just point out the people for me. Leave the rest to me."

"Then, please don't hit anyone. It's not good. I know you care about her, but I always cause you trouble. I also..."

"Do you still need to be polite with me?"

"It's not about being polite, it's..."

"Listen to me, don't say anything more."

"But... okay... then... alright."

Yu Meixia had a relatively weak personality. When Dong Xuebing was firm, she didn't dare say much more. She pursed her lips, lowered her head, and bit her lower lip, adding charm to her mature appearance. Dong Xuebing liked her for being gentle, shy, and delicate like this.

Ding.

They arrived at the first floor.

The elevator doors opened.

Outside, a somewhat chaotic scene greeted them. Many people were chattering, clearly discussing the incident where the security guard had been kicked away just minutes ago. The guard was still sitting in the lobby, with several others handing him bottled water and someone checking his injuries. Though not serious, he had a bruise, yet the incident had still caused quite an impact. Although this company wasn't very famous in the industry, it was still located near the Sanyuan Trade Center, and such a public brawl was rare.

"Did they call an ambulance?"

"No need, it's just minor injuries."

"The person who went up just now..."

"Who knows? Did they call the police?"

"They did. The police said they'll be here soon."

"Hey, look, by the elevator!"

"That young man! He's coming out!"

"Why haven't the police come yet? How dare he come to our company and hit someone? Too arrogant!"

For a while, everyone saw Dong Xuebing and Yu Meixia coming out of the elevator and looked at them. Some were indignant, some furious, and some were just bystanders wanting to see what would happen next. Some had already urgently contacted the company's leaders, who had just gone out for lunch.

After Dong Xuebing and Yu Meixia came out of the elevator, they received everyone's attention. Yu Meixia felt uncomfortable and kept her head down, looking a bit scared. Dong Xuebing grabbed her hand, squeezed it reassuringly, and remained unmoved. Seeing Sister Yu safe, Dong Xuebing's expression shifted from rage to calm. However, this didn't mean he had cooled off. Those who knew him understood that the calmer he appeared, the worse it might be for the other party.

As for the company's senior executives who had gone out for lunch, Dong Xuebing certainly wouldn't go to the restaurant to find them; that would be lowering himself too much and was unnecessary. Dong Xuebing just led Yu Meixia to the lobby. In front of everyone's eyes, he casually pressed Sister Yu's shoulder and made her sit on the sofa in the lobby's rest area. He went to the water dispenser, got her a cup of water, and tried to calm her down.

Dong Xuebing's composure affected Yu Meixia. She wasn't as nervous anymore and drank some hot water.

"You sit here. I'll handle this." With that, Dong Xuebing turned and walked towards the reception desk, heading straight for the several company staff members.

"Everyone became tense."

"Where is your boss and manager?" Dong Xuebing asked as soon as he arrived. "Get them both here for me!"

A female receptionist looked at him, said nothing, and glanced at the others, unsure how to handle the situation.

At this moment, another security guard arrived. He had a good relationship with the guard who had just been beaten. He looked furious. "Why did you hit someone? Huh? The police are coming soon! You better behave yourself!"

Dong Xuebing didn't even look back. "I'll say it again! Bring your company leaders here for me!"

On the other side, another guard approached, reaching out as if to grab Dong Xuebing's shoulder, apparently intending to subdue him, and he used force.

However, although Dong Xuebing didn't turn back, he seemed to have eyes in the back of his head. He casually knocked his elbow backward, and the guard let out a cry of pain, sitting on the ground



holding his face with blood flowing from his nose. Dong Xuebing remained indifferent, as if it were a trivial matter, showing no concern. Moreover, this time, his attack was a bit more severe.

"Still shouting at me? I haven't settled scores with any of you yet!"

"An ordinary company dares to treat an actress who came for an audition like this? Forcing her into an intimate scene with such a gentle personality? I won't spare any of you!"

"And another person down!"

The other guards hesitated to approach.

Dong Xuebing slammed the table. "Didn't you hear me speaking?"

Several receptionists remained silent, some timid ones startled.

After seeing they still didn't react, Dong Xuebing nodded slightly. "I've said my piece. If you won't cooperate, there's nothing more I can do." Dong Xuebing looked around and spotted a large decorative vase nearby. He picked it up and hurled it at the reception desk. Behind it hung the company's sign, and amid everyone's shocked gaze, the vase smashed into it, destroying the company logo!

Crash!

Bang!

The receptionists scattered in all directions.

"He's attacking people!"

"Where are the police? Where are the police?"

"Quick, call the boss!"

After beating someone up, Dong Xuebing started wrecking their office!

But what everyone found incomprehensible was that this young man didn't seem irrational. There had been many incidents at their company before, usually disputes over casting, with shouting and occasional property damage, but no one had behaved like Dong Xuebing. His expression now showed no impulsiveness; instead, there was a calmness in his eyes as if what he had done was trivial and of no concern to him. His demeanor was too casual, not the frantic yelling and screaming they were used to.

After smashing things up, Dong Xuebing estimated that even if their company leaders didn't return, they would have to come back. So he walked lightly over to Yu Meixia and sat down beside her.

"Xuebing, this!"

"What's the matter? It's nothing!"

With a casual glance, Dong Xuebing took out his phone and dialed Xie Guobang's secretary. "Hello, Secretary Shen, I... Yeah, my friend got into a bit of trouble. I'm over in Shuangjing. Maybe someone called the police. Could you help coordinate and keep the police from coming... Right, I'll handle it myself."

...

Meanwhile, in another place.

Inside a private room at a restaurant.

Ring, ring, the phone rang.

"Hello?" answered a middle-aged man.

"Boss Wu, something's happened!" reported a female colleague from the company's reception.

Boss Wu impatiently replied, "So, someone assaulted a security guard? We're in the middle of a meal here. Has the police been called? Let them handle it!"

The girl continued, "There's more trouble. That person... that person damaged our company's sign and logo, broke a decorative flowerpot, and also assaulted another security guard!"

Boss Wu's face darkened. "Where are the police?"

"They haven't arrived yet," the girl replied.

"What kind of person is this? What do they want?" Boss Wu's temper flared.

"I'm not sure either, but there's a woman with him, brought down from our office upstairs. She seems to be here for an audition," the girl explained.

Boss Wu's expression turned serious. "I see. I'll head back immediately."

After hanging up, he briefed the other leaders, producers, and directors dining with him.

"What's going on?"

"Boss Wu, is someone causing trouble?"

"It seems there's all sorts of people these days!"

There was a mix of concern and curiosity around the table, which included individuals from Boss Wu's company and entertainment companies.

Boss Wu shook his head. "There's a disturbance. Our company's logo has been damaged. Two guards were assaulted. I need to go back and handle this. You all can continue eating. Director Sun, my apologies for the delay?"

Director Sun said, "Boss Wu, don't mention it. Is it related to the auditions? It concerns us, too. Shall we go back together and take a look?"

Another producer said, "Yes, the dishes are getting cold anyway."

Curiosity about who was causing such a ruckus spread among them. How could someone be so audacious as to cause trouble here? Gradually, they all stood up and headed back together.

The company was just across the street, very close by.

The interrupted dinner irritated Boss Wu. As he walked, he started to piece things together. This incident was probably caused by Yu Meixia who had just left abruptly. Wasn't it just a kissing scene? If she couldn't handle even that and left halfway, what did she think being a star was about? Did she think it was easy? Boss Wu was used to such incidents and didn't think much of it. He didn't consider his demands on Yu Meixia unreasonable. To him, it was expected, normal, and deserved. But for her to turn around and send someone to fight with his company? Of course, Boss Wu

couldn't agree with that. Did she think she could challenge him? Acting all tough! Did she even bother to find out what kind of company we are? Who does she think she is? If she wants to make it in the entertainment industry, she has to listen to us. Otherwise, she won't succeed in her lifetime. I'll make sure she never gets another role!

So what if she's good-looking?

There are plenty of good-looking people around!

Why must I let her star in a film financed by our company? She has to prove herself! Does she think success falls from the sky?

Boss Wu sneered, utterly convinced that he hadn't done anything wrong and years of holding a high position had accustomed him to this attitude.