

PAW 1711

Chapter 1711

The company.

In the lobby.

Dong Xuebing showed no awareness of being surrounded by onlookers, naturally lighting a cigarette and taking a few puffs, his eyes coldly fixed on the direction of the door. Smoking was prohibited in the building, but after he had already assaulted people and smashed things, smoking a cigarette was not a big deal. At least after the lesson learned from the two security guards lying on the ground in their blood, no one dared to approach him and say anything.

Smoke filled the rest area with every puff.

Yu Meixia was choked by the smoke and coughed.

Dong Xuebing glanced sideways and quickly extinguished the cigarette.

At that moment, the revolving door moved, and several middle-aged men walked in one after another. Looking at their appearance, it was clear that the principals had arrived.

"What's going on?" one of them immediately demanded upon entering.

"Where are they?" Boss Wu scanned around the lobby with a stern expression upon entering.

The next moment, several investors, producers, and directors from the company saw two security guards sitting there groaning. One was clutching his stomach, the other his face, clearly both injured. Turning their heads further, they noticed the company logo on the wall behind the receptionist's desk, originally clean and neat but now missing a few letters. The wall was also damaged, with many shards of porcelain vases scattered on the ground, looking very messy and infuriating to Boss Wu and his group.

That was the company's logo.

Damaging their logo was like slapping their faces.

Wu was immediately furious; his face darkened. "Who did this?"

Many of the company's employees immediately pointed to a man and a woman in the rest area.

Just as Boss Wu and the others looked over, Dong Xuebing glanced at them and said, "I did it. Any problem with that? I fucking smashed it. So, it was you guys."

He cursed as soon as he came up.

Dong Xuebing was not polite at all.

Boss Wu was enraged, and when he saw the middle-aged beauty next to the young man who cursed, he coldly snorted in his heart. Sure enough, it was this woman.

An executive from one company angrily said, "You've gone too far!"

Another person from a different company shouted, "You're running wild here!"

"Why haven't the police arrived yet?" Boss Wu raised his voice.

A security guard hurried up. "It's been reported already, but they haven't arrived. There might be traffic jams."

"Useless. Forget it. I'll handle it myself." Boss Wu picked up his phone and called the deputy director of the local police station, whom he had previously contacted. "Hey, Director Chang." He picked up his phone and called the deputy director of the local police station.

"Old Wu, what's up?" Deputy Director Chang answered.

"We've had an incident at our company. Someone came over and beat our security guards and smashed our stuff. Can you come over and handle it?" Wu said.

Deputy Director Chang paused for a moment. "Have you reported it?"

"It was reported a while ago, but the police still haven't arrived. That's why I'm calling you to ask." Boss Wu wasn't close to him, but they had shared meals before and knew each other. He thought the other party would give him this face naturally. Originally, this was a routine matter and a minor one at that.

But unexpectedly, Deputy Director Chang said, "I see. Sorry about this, Boss Wu. We're currently unable to dispatch anyone; we're dealing with some urgent matters here."

Boss Wu was taken aback. "People have been beaten here, and..."

"You have security guards. Handle it yourselves for now. We really can't spare any manpower at the moment. We'll come over once we have more personnel available." Before Wu could say anything more, Deputy Director Chang continued, "That's it for now, Boss Wu. I have to attend a meeting urgently."

Beep beep beep.

The call was abruptly disconnected.

Boss Wu was very surprised. Even if the police were short-handed, they should be able to dispatch one officer. What was going on? It wasn't during the Two Sessions period either. Wu felt something was amiss, but he didn't dwell on it. Did something major happen in the jurisdiction? Otherwise, why would Deputy Director Chang not even give him face? This wasn't just about giving face; when there was an assault here, the police should naturally come. Even if he didn't know Deputy Director Chang personally, the police station should send someone.

If there were a real emergency, they'd have to wait.

Boss Wu didn't think much about it.

The people around him overheard but didn't consider other possibilities.

However, only Dong Xuebing knew that within an hour, the police in the jurisdiction would not come. That call he just made wasn't for nothing; it was to the secretary of the Beijing City Party Committee. Secretary Shen would have left long ago if they couldn't handle even this small matter. For Dong Xuebing, it was just a matter of making a call. It was also just a matter of making a call to Secretary Shen. Their identities meant they couldn't even classify this as a problem.

Boss Wu looked at Dong Xuebing and said, "Wait here, kid, you won't be leaving today."

Dong Xuebing sneered, "Don't tease me. I'm telling you, if this isn't resolved, even if you tell me to leave, I won't."

Boss Wu glared, "Kid, do you know where you are? You hit people and smashed things. You're asking for trouble."

Dong Xuebing laughed, "I fucking smashed your office."

Everyone was surprised by his audacity. At this point, he showed no remorse and remained defiant.

Dong Xuebing then looked at Yu Meixia and said, "Sister Yu, which of these people auditioned you? Point them out to me."

Yu Meixia glanced at them, pursed her lips, and quickly pointed out the lead person, Boss Wu. "It's him."

Dong Xuebing had just heard them call this person "Boss Wu" and couldn't help narrowing his eyes. "Isn't auditioning the job of the director and the crew? What does it have to do with him?" Seeing Sister Yu pointing him out, Dong Xuebing understood. This wasn't the first time this person had done something like this. Auditioning wasn't a one-person job, but he had had a plan from the start.

Was there any need to say more?

No need to waste words.

Dong Xuebing stood up and walked towards them.

Many people were present, all from their company, and Boss Wu looked at him unafraid. He and the others didn't know who Dong Xuebing was. They only saw him standing before Boss Wu and saying, "You want to teach my friend how to shoot a kissing scene? I don't need your help. Today, I'll show you what a kissing scene is."

Dong Xuebing grabbed Boss Wu's hair, kicked his leg, and pressed his head down forcefully. With a loud bang, Boss Wu's face "kissed" the marble floor.

Chapter 1712

"Bang!"

"Thud!"

"Ah!"

Several sounds almost simultaneously erupted!

Dong Xuebing grabbed Boss Wu by the hair and slammed him face-first onto the ground. Blood immediately started flowing from his nose and mouth. Everyone in the company lobby was stunned. By the time they snapped out of it, Boss Wu was already clutching his face and screaming in pain, rolling on the ground. His battered face was now exposed to everyone, who couldn't help but gasp in horror. Dong Xuebing had been furious, and he didn't hold back at all. Bullying Dong Xuebing's friend and then arrogantly defending his actions? Such a person wouldn't last ten seconds standing before Dong Xuebing!

"Ah!"

"He's hitting him!"

"Boss Wu! Boss Wu!"

"You're insane! Let go of Boss Wu!"

"Call the police! Where are the security guards? Get them here!"

Everyone started shouting, but there was only one security guard left. Seeing Dong Xuebing's viciousness, he hesitated, realizing he wouldn't stand a chance against him.

Yu Meixia urgently said, "Xuebing! Stop!"

Dong Xuebing didn't listen. He crouched there, still holding Boss Wu's hair. "Say what you just said to me again. Weren't you acting tough?"

Boss Wu shouted angrily, "You're dead, kid!"

Dong Xuebing sneered, "Oh, I'd like to see that!"

This time, Dong Xuebing wasn't just fighting a security guard; he had assaulted their general manager. The situation was different, and everyone reacted accordingly. Three people immediately rushed over—these were likely mid- to high-level managers who had come in with Boss Wu and were probably involved in the actor auditions. A moment later, four or five more employees charged forward. Their boss was being attacked, which was their chance to prove themselves. With so many people, they weren't afraid of this young man causing trouble!

But Dong Xuebing didn't even glance at them, still gripping Boss Wu's hair. "If you're investing in a movie, then invest in a movie! Why the hell are you doing such shady things? Trying out kissing scenes with female employees? Are you a director? What business is it of yours? Do you think you're somebody? Don't say I'm hitting you! Don't say I'm bullying you! You asked for it! You deserve it! If you don't treat people like humans, I won't treat you like one, either! Hitting you? It wouldn't be too much even if I killed you!"

"Let go of Boss Wu!"

"Boss Wu! We're coming!"

"Who the hell do you think you are, hitting the general manager?"

Seven or eight people cursed as they rushed at Dong Xuebing!

Seeing them coming, Boss Wu, lying on the ground, sneered and kicked at Dong Xuebing. It was a vicious and treacherous kick!

But it seemed Dong Xuebing had anticipated it. Though his eyes weren't on the incoming kick, he lifted one foot and stomped hard on an empty spot on the ground. The next moment, Boss Wu's foot met Dong Xuebing's, perfectly intercepted!

"My leg!" Boss Wu screamed again in agony!

Seeing this, the approaching group became even more enraged and surrounded Dong Xuebing, ready to strike.

Did Dong Xuebing take these people seriously? Even if they weren't a bunch of office workers but soldiers, Dong Xuebing wouldn't have trouble handling a few of them. He had come to seek justice for Yu Meixia, not to make an unreasonable scene, but there had to be a resolution. Now that these people wanted to fight, Dong Xuebing wouldn't hold back.

The situation was on the brink of exploding!

The fight was about to break out!

But suddenly, a powerful voice rang out from outside, "What's going on here? Stop it! Everyone stop!" A man entered the room.

"Uh."

"Boss!"

"President Zhou!"

"Why are you here?"

The people surrounding Dong Xuebing immediately stopped, exchanged glances, and stepped back, looking respectfully at the middle-aged man who had entered. This man was in his forties or fifties, with a full head of black hair, which was rare at his age. He wore dress pants and a jacket, exuding an air of authority. Judging by the reaction of the others, it was clear that Zhou was a higher-ranking leader than Boss Wu, possibly the real boss or a major shareholder of the company. He had a very imposing presence.

Dong Xuebing glanced at him.

President Zhou's face darkened slightly, "What's going on?"

"Boss, it's like this," one of the senior executives stepped forward and pointed at Dong Xuebing, "this guy came in causing trouble, smashing things, and he beat up the security guard. Now, he's even beaten Boss Wu. We've already called the police, but it's been half an hour, and they still haven't arrived, so..."

President Zhou looked at Dong Xuebing, "Who are you?"

Dong Xuebing responded indifferently, "You don't need to know who I am. I'm here today to get an explanation from you."

President Zhou asked, "What explanation?"

Dong Xuebing pointed at Yu Meixia, "Apologize to my friend."

President Zhou looked at the person next to him coldly, "What happened to that lady?"

"Nothing much," the person replied in a low voice. "I just heard that Boss Wu was auditioning actors and mentioned testing a scene, a kissing scene, and then..."

Zhou continued, "And then this young man showed up?"

The person nodded, "It's unreasonable. Nowadays, you get all kinds of people. It's such a small matter, yet he won't let it go and even resorted to violence!"

Dong Xuebing heard this and laughed, "A small matter? You guys are something else. You don't see people as human, do you? Trying to molest a woman, and you think that's normal? That it's something to be expected? I'm impressed by you!"

One of the executives said, "Watch your mouth, kid!"

President Zhou also calmed down, "You say Boss Wu molested a woman. Do you have any evidence?"

"I don't have evidence, and I don't need it," Dong Xuebing said, sitting on a sofa and crossing his legs. "I'll say it again: have this Wu guy apologize to my friend, and have everyone responsible for this audition come over, bow, and apologize. Then we'll call it even."

Zhou frowned, "Trying to extort money?"

"Extort money?" Dong Xuebing chuckled.

At that moment, a staff member quickly approached, whispering to President Zhou and the nearby executives, "The Range Rover outside belongs to him."

President Zhou turned to look.

The others were also taken aback and glanced outside.

That was a three to four million RMB car! They had wondered earlier why there was a Range Rover parked near the entrance. It turned out to be this young man's car!

Extort money?

Clearly, he wasn't short of money!

Dong Xuebing said, "I'm not unreasonable. I reason with those who reason with me. For those who don't, I use my methods to make them understand, like your Boss Wu." Dong Xuebing glanced at Boss Wu, who was being attended to. "I don't need your money, and my friend wasn't hurt, so no medical expenses either. I want you to apologize to my friend. How simple is that?"

President Zhou's face turned cold, "You assaulted our employee and general manager, and you smashed our front desk. Yet, you still expect us to apologize to your friend?"

Boss Wu had been beaten up, and Dong Xuebing felt his anger dissipate, so he didn't continue with the violence. Instead, he confronted them aggressively, saying, "You need to understand the sequence of events. If nothing had happened and I had just beaten up your people, then I would be in the wrong, and I wouldn't have done that. But now, it was your company's people who scared my friend, bullied her, demanded she kiss during an audition, and when she refused, tried to force her. This is your general manager? With such poor conduct? Is this how your company operates? Aren't you embarrassed? You wanted to talk about the reason with me. Then let's discuss it properly. I think I showed restraint. My temper isn't as bad as it used to be. You should be thankful. If this had happened a year ago, there wouldn't be a single intact item left in your company's lobby."

His words were arrogant!

This was Dong Xuebing's style!

Some people thought he was boasting.

But Yu Meixia knew better. Dong Xuebing was entirely capable of doing what he claimed. A year ago, he had indeed done such things. This wasn't an exaggeration, just stating a fact.

However, to others, his words were infuriating. They had never encountered someone so brazenly arrogant.

President Zhou looked at him and said, "You're accusing us of sexual harassment without evidence and demanding an apology? Do you think that's possible?"

Dong Xuebing calmly replied, "I've said it. I don't need evidence!"

President Zhou felt there was no reasoning with him, "Then let's wait for the police to handle this!"

"Fine by me. But remember what I said. If there's no apology, I'll keep at this. I've got time, and I'm not in a hurry!" Dong Xuebing was firm. He never backed down until he got a resolution or made the other party relent. He had heard about the chaotic nature of the entertainment industry but never experienced it firsthand. Today, this incident involving Yu Meixia and himself opened his eyes to the blatant misconduct. He was disgusted by how openly they tried to enforce such practices. Sexual advances under the guise of auditions, trying to force a kiss, and then chasing the woman through the building? It was outrageous! Dong Xuebing wasn't going to let this slide!

Beep!

Beep!

Just then, the sound of a police car arriving could be heard.

Chapter 1713

Company.

Inside the lobby.

As the revolving door opened, three or four police officers walked in, led by Deputy Chief Chang from the local police station. Many of the employees seemed to recognize him.

"Deputy Chief Chang."

"You're finally here!"

"Officers! Arrest him!"

"It's that thug on the couch! He's the one who assaulted people!"

"He not only hit people but also smashed things. It's outrageous! Completely out of control!"

Several employees started chattering, giving a rough account of what happened. However, they conveniently omitted the part about Boss Wu forcing the woman to try a kissing scene. There was no need to mention it. Such things were expected in their industry; besides, there was no evidence. Who could prove that their general manager forced the kissing scene? It was just Boss Wu and the woman in the office, and without Boss Wu admitting it, the woman's testimony alone wouldn't hold up. The employees and middle managers naturally sided with their general manager, feeling confident there was nothing to worry about. Even if there were evidence, it wouldn't matter much; their company was the investor. Interviewing an actress and testing a kissing scene was just part of the job.

Deputy Chief Chang listened quietly.

Other officers went over to check on Boss Wu and the two security guards' injuries. The security guards were relatively unharmed, but Boss Wu was quite seriously injured. His nose was broken, and several teeth were missing. His mouth was full of blood, which looked quite ghastly.

"Deputy Chief." One officer returned.

"How is it?" Deputy Chief Chang asked.

The officer shook his head slightly and said lowly, "One person is quite seriously injured."

Deputy Chief Chang's expression remained unchanged as if he hadn't heard anything, and he glanced at Boss Wu's injuries without saying a word.

"Deputy Chief." President Zhou approached.

Deputy Chief Chang nodded, "President Zhou."

President Zhou said, "You handle this matter. It's quite a mess."

Deputy Chief Chang asked, "Who is the perpetrator?"

"It's him." President Zhou pointed to Dong Xuebing, who was sitting on the couch.

Deputy Chief Chang looked at the young man and asked, "What's going on?" He surprisingly asked, without directly arresting anyone.

Everyone was quite puzzled. The assault had already occurred. The evidence was right there, so why ask? Just arrest him and sort it out later. Why go through the motions?

Dong Xuebing, seeing this, pulled Yu Meixia up and walked over, saying, "The guy lying on the floor tried to use the movie audition as an excuse to kiss my friend forcibly. My friend ran away, and he sent people all over the building to find her. Who knows what would have happened if I hadn't arrived in time? What's going on? That's what's going on!" Dong Xuebing wasn't exactly polite when speaking to the police. Given his status, he wasn't at a stage where he needed to be overly deferential.

Deputy Chief Chang didn't seem to mind his tone, "I see."

A company middle manager immediately said, "That's slander. There's no evidence at all. Boss Wu is our general manager; how could he have forcibly kissed his friend?"

Another middle manager added, "He's just here to cause trouble!"

"Arrest him quickly, or he'll hit someone again!" A senior manager said, "He's simply a scoundrel! Who behaves like this?"

With the entire scene filled with company employees, the verbal pressure was naturally directed at Dong Xuebing.

"It's slander against me," Dong Xuebing responded with a sneer. "So, when your company commits an assault, it's no big deal because there's no evidence, but when someone stands up to your

company, it's a huge crime? Is everything your company does right, and is everything others do wrong? You all disgust me. I understand that you all work for this company, but aren't you human beings before being employees or leaders? I don't believe you don't know the kind of person your boss is, yet you still act like you're always in the right and everyone else is wrong. What kind of humanity is that?" He chuckled. "And like I said, I don't need evidence!"

President Zhou replied slowly, "Young man, don't be too arrogant."

Dong Xuebing shrugged. "I never act arrogantly. I reason with reasonable people, but don't expect me to be reasonable if someone plays dirty with me!"

Both sides continued arguing, each sticking to their own story.

Deputy Chief Chang sent an officer to talk to Yu Meixia to get her account and another officer to re-examine the injured parties.

After about five minutes, President Zhou started to lose patience. He found the officers' behavior peculiar today. Handling a case should be straightforward, but they were taking their time, asking questions instead of arresting anyone. President Zhou's company had dealt with troublemakers before and had connections with the local police station. Things usually went smoothly. So why was this time different?

"Deputy Chief Chang?" President Zhou urged.

"Hmm? What is it?" Deputy Chief Chang feigned ignorance.

"Shouldn't you arrest this person?" President Zhou suggested. "Our work has been greatly affected, and everyone is quite scared. Such a dangerous person should be taken away, right?"

Taken away? Take who?

Deputy Chief Chang knew exactly what was going on. He remembered the call from his superior about an hour ago, giving him specific instructions to handle a young man named Dong with special care. The directive was clear: delay the response as much as possible. The message came from the Beijing City Party Committee secretary, a sign of significant influence. Even though Deputy Chief Chang didn't know who Dong Xuebing was, he knew that anyone who warranted a direct call from such a high-ranking official was not to be taken lightly. Arresting him was out of the question.

Given the situation, Deputy Chief Chang decided to delay the process as long as possible. He could not arrest Dong Xuebing, even if it meant just dragging things out.

Another ten minutes passed, and it became clear that further delay was not an option. With a firm tone, Deputy Chief Chang finally said, "I think it's best to settle this privately. It's not a big deal after all."

Not a big deal?

Many people were nearly dumbfounded!

Chapter 1714

No big deal?

People have been beaten up!

If this isn't a big deal, what is?

Deputy Chief Chang's words left everyone in the company speechless.

Many people were also furious, especially General Manager Wu, who had been helped to a chair. His teeth were badly knocked out, and his mouth was seriously injured, making his speech slurred and leaking air, but his displeasure was still evident. "Deputy Chief Chang, what do you mean this is no big deal? He came here and assaulted people and smashed things up. This is malicious injury, a criminal case. Settling it privately? Absolutely not!"

Several police officers glanced at him disapprovingly.

Deputy Chief Chang said, "This young man did hit someone, but it was for a reason. Ultimately, your company's audition process had issues."

General Manager Wu shouted, "We had no issues!"

"No issues?" Deputy Chief Chang was getting irritated. "Then what about the situation reported by this woman surnamed Yu? Why did you ask her to try a kissing scene out of nowhere?"

General Manager Wu snapped, "I didn't! This is slander! It damages my reputation! Deputy Chief Chang, you'll listen to their one-sided story?" He had dealt with Deputy Chief Chang before and even had meals together, so he expected the officer to side with him. Besides, his company hadn't initiated the violence. But the police's attitude and suggestion to settle privately infuriated him. Dropping the respectful "Chief," he began calling him "Deputy Chief," clearly showing his anger.

Standing nearby, Dong Xuebing chuckled, "Oh, our testimonies are one-sided, but everything you say is the truth and evidence?"

General Manager Wu retorted, "Was I talking to you? Why are you interrupting!"

With the police present and his boss here, General Manager Wu's confidence surged again, making him arrogant.

Dong Xuebing found this amusing. "Alright, it seems you haven't learned your lesson and have no intention of repenting, huh?" He figured he hadn't hit him hard enough.

General Manager Wu shouted, "I'm stating it clearly: There is no way to settle this privately. There's nothing to settle privately. Handle it as it should be handled, and this kid's slander against me—once the police are done with you, you'll be facing court. I'm not bluffing!"

Dong Xuebing laughed, "Oh, I'm really scared. You might scare me to death."

General Manager Wu wanted to say more, but his broken nose made his words painfully sweat-inducing, so he stopped talking and glared coldly at the officers.

Deputy Chief Chang turned to Mr. Zhou, "Mr. Zhou, what do you think?"

"I also disagree with settling this privately. It's impossible," Mr. Zhou echoed General Manager Wu's stance. He was also siding with his staff and couldn't back down now. Besides, he resented Dong Xuebing for causing a scene in his company. Settling privately by paying some money? No way! If word got out, his company would be a laughing stock in the industry, tarnishing his reputation.

"Arrest him!"

"What are we waiting for?"

Other company employees also clamored for action.

Deputy Chief Chang was annoyed, not only with General Manager Wu but also with Mr. Zhou. Damn it, I suggested you settle this yourselves for your good, and you don't even appreciate it? What the hell? Shouting at me, acting all high and mighty? You're like dogs biting Lu Dongbin, not recognizing a good person's heart! But Deputy Chief Chang didn't want things to escalate, so he suppressed his anger and called Mr. Zhou aside, speaking with his last bit of patience, "Mr. Zhou, I'm doing this for your benefit. This matter isn't too big or too small; it's about how you handle it. If you settle privately, both sides can reach a consensus, and it'll be over without further impact. But if this blows up, your company's reputation won't be good. We've known each other for years; everyone knows your company's issues. There's no need to beat around the bush. That woman has already filed a report, claiming you attempted to molest her and intended to harm her. There's hallway surveillance footage of everything. Many things can't withstand scrutiny, you understand?"

Mr. Zhou frowned, "My people have been beaten up like this, and you think I can just swallow this? What would my employees think of me if I did?"

Deputy Chief Chang responded seriously, "Listen to me, let it go."

Mr. Zhou shook his head firmly, "Impossible. There's no way. It's not that I don't respect you, Deputy Chief Chang, but it just can't be done today!"

Deputy Chief Chang's expression changed. Damn it, these guys don't appreciate the help. Now he understood why the young man, Dong Xuebing, had been so ruthless and angry. This company's people, from leaders to employees, seemed to have an inherent sense of superiority. Everyone knew the shady dealings in the entertainment industry; it didn't take a genius to figure out that General Manager Wu had likely had bad intentions towards that woman, sparking the incident. Regardless of the final impact, the cause was clear. But instead of admitting their fault, they clung to the lack of evidence, shouting as if they were completely justified as if bullying the woman was their right. This attitude infuriated Deputy Chief Chang, especially since they ignored his suggestions.

Do they think I'm trying to hurt them?

Do they know who they're dealing with?

Damn it, if that's the case, I won't give a damn!

Deputy Chief Chang was pissed, coldly looking at Mr. Zhou and the other company executives, "I've said my piece. Since you won't listen to mediation, don't come to me if anything happens in the future. I'm telling you this upfront." He then switched to an official tone, instructing the officers, "Investigate Yu Meixia's report. Xiao Liu, check the surveillance footage. Xiao Chen, inspect the office where it happened and question the witnesses."

A senior company executive protested angrily, "Why are you investigating us now? What for?"

Mr. Zhou was also infuriated by the police's attitude, "You're not detaining the suspect, and instead you're investigating us?"

Deputy Chief Chang snapped back, "Why should we only investigate your report of assault and slander? If they report you for attempted molestation, we can't investigate? We don't need your guidance on how to conduct an investigation! Do you think the police station belongs to you? Huh?" Deputy Chief Chang wouldn't have reacted this way if they had spoken nicely. After all, they had known each other for a while. But respect goes both ways. Since they weren't respecting him, why should he give them any? Who the hell do they think they are?

Mr. Zhou narrowed his eyes, "Alright then, investigate away! Go ahead!" He turned to the other employees gathered around, "Police investigation. Everyone cooperates. Tell them everything you know. Don't hide anything from the police. Anyone who dares to hide information from the police, don't blame me for not being polite!" His words were righteous, but his tone showed an unmistakable hint of threat that even the simplest person could detect.

In the blink of an eye, even if eyewitnesses were present, they dared not speak up.

Mr. Zhou smiled, "Officers, please proceed. I'll have my people cooperate fully with you."

This smile made Deputy Chief Chang and several police officers extremely uncomfortable. They knew Mr. Zhou, the company's CEO, had a broad network and friends in high places. He could influence people at the top, which was why he had risen from nothing to his current position despite numerous civil disputes in the past. He had his ways, and that attitude had likely been forged over the years. Now, he didn't even respect their local police station.

Several officers approached Deputy Chief Chang hesitantly.

"Chief Chang, about this..."

"Should we...?"

There was a hint of hesitation in their voices. They figured they might not find anything significant in the investigation. After all, the company's employees wouldn't likely testify against their interests. As for the surveillance footage, there was a good chance it wouldn't capture anything useful, and it might have been deleted already. Pursuing this could be a waste of time, and unnecessarily antagonizing someone with such extensive connections as Mr. Zhou wasn't worth it.

But Deputy Chief Chang didn't hesitate, "Investigate."

The officers exchanged glances and then proceeded with their respective tasks.

As they went about their work, they began to understand the tone of this investigation was leaning towards mediation and settling the matter privately. They didn't fully grasp why this decision was made, but Deputy Chief Chang had instructed it, and they followed orders without question. Given Deputy Chief Chang's demeanor, the officers sensed there might be aspects of the situation they weren't aware of. It seemed unusual, prompting them to comply silently, as they had done for years.

Tension mounted.

Moments ago, Dong Xuebing had faced off with Mr. Zhou, General Manager Wu, and the entire company.

But in the blink of an eye, the situation had shifted to Dong Xuebing and the police officers confronting the company.

Seeing this, Dong Xuebing knew Deputy Chief Chang had likely received some assurances and was here to assist him. He nodded inwardly. As for the attitudes of Mr. Zhou, General Manager Wu, and the company's employees, Dong Xuebing found them disgusting. Yes, disgusting. Normally, when people do something wrong, they feel guilt or shame— it's human nature. However, Mr. Zhou, General Manager Wu, and many of the company's employees didn't exhibit that. Their self-righteous demeanor told Dong Xuebing they were accustomed to such behavior and didn't think they had done anything wrong.

Attempted molestation?

Trying to have someone arrested?

They didn't see anything inappropriate about their actions!

The fire that had just subsided in Dong Xuebing now surged up again!

Chapter 1715

Five minutes...

Ten minutes...

Over half an hour passed.

The police officers finally found the surveillance footage from the time of the incident in the monitoring room. Yu Meixia, the person involved, was naturally called over, and Dong Xuebing, Mr. Zhou, General Manager Wu, and others also went to the monitoring room around the corner.

"Ms. Yu, is this the time?"

"Yes, it was around this time in the morning."

"Alright, let's take a look. Xiao Liu, play it."

"Okay, Deputy Chief Chang. This is it. I'll fast forward a bit."

The camera in the hallway showed the date and time of the incident. The fast-forwarded footage showed no abrupt jumps; the camera was fixed. Suddenly, a figure appeared. The police quickly stopped fast-forwarding. General Manager Wu, alone, used keys to open the door and entered the room. Shortly after, Yu Meixia's figure appeared in the hallway and entered the office. The critical surveillance footage showed that Yu Meixia suddenly ran out of the office three minutes later in a panic, heading towards the end of the corridor where the restroom was located. Moments later, three security guards arrived, including two who Dong Xuebing had hit. They entered the office and quickly emerged. They searched the hallway but found no one. Eventually, General Manager Wu exited the room alone and took the elevator.

The surveillance playback ended.

The officer said, "That's it."

Deputy Chief Chang looked at General Manager Wu and Mr. Zhou. "Isn't it clear enough?"

"I don't think it's clear at all," Mr. Zhou retorted. "What does this prove?"

Deputy Chief Chang looked at him squarely. "Then tell me, why did Ms. Yu suddenly run away?"

Pressing the gauze on his nose, General Manager Wu said, "She came for an interview, performed poorly, and had nothing special, so I decided to send her away. Nothing happened. She must have been upset and couldn't accept the rejection, so she ran out like that. That's probably how it happened."

Yu Meixia interjected angrily, "You... you're lying!"

Dong Xuebing's eyes turned cold. Finding death!

Deputy Chief Chang also felt they were treating them like fools. He countered, "Then why did Ms. Yu run to hide in the restroom?"

General Manager Wu replied, "Who can prove she was hiding?"

A police officer snapped, "Why did your security guards search the entire building?"

General Manager Wu glanced around and continued, "She was quite distraught. She's been a star, so not passing the interview must have been a big psychological blow for her. She couldn't accept this reality, that's why she acted out. I was worried she might commit suicide by jumping off the building, so I had the security guards help find her, to comfort her, and then send her back."

Deputy Chief Chang turned to the security guards from the company. "What do you say?"

One security guard Dong Xuebing had hit immediately said, "Yes, that's right. General Manager Wu asked us to find her, afraid that woman might jump off and commit suicide."

"That's correct."

"Yes."

The other two security guards echoed.

Deputy Chief Chang sneered, "Do you think we're fools?"

The police officers also felt they were being treated like toddlers.

Unfortunately, Mr. Zhou and the company's senior management seemed to take everything for granted, completely oblivious to any wrongdoing. Mr. Zhou said, "That's how it is. It's that simple. The surveillance video already proves it. It's not our company's fault; they're falsely accusing us. We reserve the right to take legal action. As for the rest, let the police handle it. Why haven't they arrested anyone yet?"

A police officer responded, "We haven't finished investigating this matter!"

Mr. Zhou blinked, "Isn't it already clear? Our company's General Manager Wu was trying to be kind, fearing something might happen to that woman. How did it turn out that we're in the wrong? There's no sound in the video, no other evidence. How can you be so sure he wanted to harass her? What's the identity of our company's general manager? And what's the identity of that woman? Just a rural person, right? Isn't it still unclear? When she couldn't get what she wanted, she resorted to such despicable means to extort and falsely accuse us. Officers, I suggest not only taking away this young man who hit someone but also investigating this woman's motives!"

Turning the tables!

General Manager Wu and other company executives also chimed in.

"Yes!"

"This is outrageous!"

"How dare they falsely accuse us!"

"Take them all away! What audacity!"

Deputy Director Chang and several police officers frowned, their expressions darkened. Although everyone knew what they wanted, the limitations of the surveillance were significant; they couldn't prove anything. They were somewhat at a loss. Seeing these people from the company committing perjury together, arguing sophistically, and being arrogant, Deputy Director Chang was angry but also felt sympathetic towards them. He shook his head inwardly and glanced at Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing, furious yet smiling ironically, said, "Well said, very well said. Today, I've seen it myself. But unfortunately, I think you've chosen the wrong person to be arrogant with. Bullying me around? You guys are really funny." Dong Xuebing even chuckled, "Thanks to the efforts of the police comrades. I'll handle this matter myself. I didn't want to do this, but you forced my hand. Mr. Zhou, as the company boss, let me confirm with you one last time. I suggest you think this through. If you and your company apologize to my friend now, I won't say anything more about this. We'll leave, and that'll be the end of it."

Mr. Zhou sneered, "What are you thinking? You should be the ones apologizing to us now! And your friend! Shouldn't this woman also apologize? Our company won't be falsely accused like this! Assault, property damage, false accusations—don't you owe us an explanation?"

Dong Xuebing replied calmly, "Alright then. Don't blame me later."

"We won't. Don't worry!" General Manager Zhou and the others thought Dong Xuebing was bluffing. Regret? What do we have to regret? You should be the one regretting it! Don't you know the power of our company? Do you dare provoke us? Are you blind? Look at yourself in the mirror! Who do you think you are?"

Dong Xuebing smiled, giving them a thumbs-up. "Alright then. Don't blame me later."

Dong Xuebing took out his phone, left the monitoring room, and called—not to Han Jing or Secretary Shen, but to Hui Lan's second aunt, Ci Lifen! Half a year ago, Dong Xuebing might have had to put in some effort to punish them, but now he didn't need to. A single phone call would suffice!

Chapter 1716

Outside the surveillance room.

It was already noon.

As Dong Xuebing walked to a quiet spot in the corridor, he dialed a number, and soon it connected.

"Hello, Auntie?" Dong Xuebing said.

"Haha, Brother-in-law!" surprisingly, it was Xie Hao speaking.

Dong Xuebing was taken aback, "How come you're picking up the phone?"

"I saw your number, so I answered," Xie Hao chuckled.

Hearing some background noise, Dong Xuebing asked, "Is Auntie there too?"

"Yeah, she's here, having lunch," Xie Hao replied. I'm tagging along today. They have a feast with abalone and shark fin. It's been ages since I had such a meal!"

"You always think about food," Dong Xuebing urged, "If Auntie has a moment, can you pass her the phone? I have something to discuss."

"Sure thing," Xie Hao called out, "Mom, it's Brother-in-law for you."

Soon, Ci Lifen's voice came through the phone, "Were you calling for me? You're interrupting my meal."

Dong Xuebing chuckled, "Sorry to disturb your lunch, Auntie. Do you have a moment? I've run into a situation involving a company called Hongye. They've invested heavily in the entertainment industry and are headquartered near Shuangjing. A friend of mine came for an audition there and encountered unfair treatment. From the boss to the managers and employees, their attitude was terrible. Even after I came to handle the matter and the police arrived, they refused to admit anything. They're falsifying evidence, acting righteous, challenging me, and even threatening to sue."

"Another case of assault?" Ci Lifen pondered for a moment. "Alright, tell me the whole story."

Dong Xuebing paused and recounted the situation in detail to Ci Lifen.

After a brief pause, Ci Lifen said, "No worries, if they've crossed the line, they deserve the consequences. In this industry, many think they can do as they please. Hongye? I haven't heard of them, but it's not surprising. Let me check something first. Hold on."

"Sure, thanks, Auntie," Dong Xuebing said.

Shortly after, Ci Lifen asked someone nearby, "Xiao Chen, pause your meal. Have you heard of a company called Hongye? No? Look it up for me."

"Hongye?" Xiao Chen was puzzled.

"Do you know it?" Ci Lifen asked him.

"Not exactly, but I've heard of the company," Xiao Chen quickly responded. "Recently, they had two film projects for approval, a TV drama and a movie. Both are completed, and I think the TV drama's been approved long ago with a broadcast date set."

A few seconds later.

Ci Lifen relayed to Dong Xuebing, "Got it. How do you want to handle this?"

"I'll leave it to your judgment. They need to be taught a lesson," Dong Xuebing replied.

"Alright, leave it to me," Ci Lifen readily agreed.

Dong Xuebing smiled, "Thank you, Auntie. I'll treat you and Uncle to a meal later. You can pick the place."

"No need to be so polite," Ci Lifen smiled back. "It's just a small matter, not worth mentioning. By the way, if you have any friends looking to get into the entertainment or film industry, call me. Why bother letting them go through auditions themselves? Am I incapable of handling such minor issues with just one phone call?"

"Hey, it's not a bother for you," Dong Xuebing said.

Ci Lifen replied, "It's no trouble at all, family."

"Alright, I'll call you next time then," Dong Xuebing said with a chuckle.

After hanging up the phone, Dong Xuebing put away his mobile. Ci Lifen had said it was barely a matter, and Dong Xuebing agreed. He knew she wasn't just being polite—it was a minor issue. Half a year ago, things might have been different. Ci Lifen was a senior official at the General Administration of Press and Publication, and film approvals were largely under the jurisdiction of the State Administration of Radio, Film, and Television. However, a few months ago, following the restructuring plan under the "mega-ministry" concept of the Ministry of Culture before its dissolution, the General Administration of Press and Publication merged with the State Administration of Radio, Film, and Television to form the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film, and Television. Despite its cumbersome name, it wielded genuine power. Ci Lifen, under this consolidation, had ascended to the position of Deputy Administrator, a vice-ministerial leadership role. Thus, dealing with such matters was well within her purview. If she didn't have this authority, Ci Lifen wouldn't have climbed the ranks over the years.

Inside the surveillance room.

Dong Xuebing returned and opened the door. However, no one noticed him as several people were engaged in a heated argument.

Yu Meixia's hands trembled with anger. "How could you do this? Have you no conscience? Don't you know what it means to make demands of someone like me?"

General Manager Wu responded coldly, "I don't know!"

"You..." Yu Meixia exclaimed. "How can you be like this?"

As a rural woman, Yu Meixia had always been straightforward, and despite broadening her horizons in recent years alongside Dong Xuebing, her character and temperament remained unchanged. She was a genuinely pure person who never lied. Faced with General Manager Wu and his colleagues blatantly lying, her anger and frustration were palpable.

One company's executives intervened, "Alright, that's enough!"

"Our company's reputation isn't something you can tarnish with just words!" another senior executive added.

Yu Meixia's eyes were red. "Do any of you still have a conscience? You..."

The people from Hongye Corporation were dismissive, including Mr. Zhou and General Manager Wu. They didn't take Yu Meixia seriously at all. After all, there was no evidence against them, and they felt even more justified since they were the ones who had been assaulted and had their property damaged. Their arrogance only grew stronger.

However, the behavior of their company's representatives infuriated several police officers. The situation was clear, yet these individuals refused to admit their wrongdoing and accused the woman who should have been the victim. Yu Meixia's demeanor was observed by the police, who understood she was a sincere woman who couldn't possibly lie. Despite this, the company's executives remained defiant, some even smiling arrogantly, as if to say, "We bullied you. What can you do about it?" It was truly maddening; anyone with a conscience would find such actions repulsive.

Deputy Director Chang's face turned stern. "That's enough! Enough arguing!"

Wu, the general manager, also made the police station unhappy. After delaying their arrival for half a day, they all meditated without taking action. In the end, they even turned the tables on them. No one bothered to explain the injuries on his face, so he had every reason to be angry. "Why should I keep quiet? This woman is accusing us! Can't we defend ourselves?"

"Who accused you?" urgently asked Yu Meixia.

Deputy Director Chang exploded, "She's just a female comrade! Watch your mouth!"

General Manager Wu pointed at his nose, "When they attacked, why didn't their hands stay clean? Deputy Director Chang, your seat's a bit crooked, isn't it?"

Deputy Director Chang sneered, "Oh, now you're questioning me too? Fine!"

The police officers also felt that the company's employees were too tactless. With their current approach, disaster was bound to strike sooner or later, and they had seen plenty of people like this before.

Zhou, the President, remained silent, but his silence spoke volumes about his attitude and the company's stance. Their people were now like an arrogant mad dog, showing no respect for anyone. They felt justified in their actions, and with Mr. Zhou's connections, they weren't afraid of consequences.

The two sides continued arguing.

Dong Xuebing slammed the door shut, drawing everyone's attention. He walked slowly to Yu Meixia, who was seething with anger, and patted her shoulder. "It's okay."

"But they..." Yu Meixia was on the verge of tears, unable to bear the injustice.

Dong Xuebing, however, was calm. He pulled Yu Meixia to a chair and said, "Just wait. I want to see how long they can keep up this arrogance. Once I, Dong Xuebing, say something, there's no taking it back. If something happens, it's their own doing. Don't blame me."

General Manager Wu chuckled, "What a joke!"

Mr. Zhou glanced at him, "Young man, you should think about yourself now."

"I should be saying that to you. Think about yourselves," Dong Xuebing lit a cigarette and said lightly, "People shouldn't be too arrogant at any time."

The company's people sneered at his words.

Deputy Director Chang didn't know whom Dong Xuebing had called or what he had arranged, but seeing his relaxed demeanor indicated that results were imminent.

Sure enough, after a while, an employee rushed in anxiously.

"What's wrong?" Zhou frowned, surprised at the commotion.

But the employee blurted out in shock, "President Zhou, something's wrong! The higher authorities just called! Our company's investment in the movie has been indefinitely postponed! They said it's due to political issues! And... the TV series that had already been approved for broadcast has also been suddenly halted! There's no way it can air as scheduled! It's indefinitely suspended!"

"What are you saying?" Mr. Zhou was stunned.

General Manager Wu was also dumbfounded, "How is that possible?"

"They were both approved and didn't violate any policies. How could this happen..." Other senior company officials were also incredulous!

Chapter 1717

Inside the room.

The atmosphere suddenly became tense.

As the President, Mr. Zhou remained calm; he had weathered many storms and should not have appeared so shocked. However, only the top executives in their company knew why. The company had been liberal with its funds recently, investing heavily in a TV drama and another film that was about to start shooting. The company's finances were heavily committed to these projects. Losses were manageable as long as the TV drama aired on schedule and the film premiered. Even if they underperformed or lost money, some costs could still be recouped through box office or ratings. But now, if this directive from higher authorities was true, it meant pure financial loss. Unable to broadcast the TV drama and release the film meant losing every cent invested.

Indefinitely?

Were they indefinitely suspended?

Mr. Zhou and the senior executives felt their hearts sink!

Although the film and television industry was stricter now than before, this extreme measure seemed unnecessary. Besides, their productions didn't breach any regulations!

How could this happen?

Why would they do this?

Did they want to destroy their company?

The situation caught everyone off guard. They were all stunned, unable to react for a long time.

Mr. Zhou's face darkened. "Are you sure?"

"Just got the call, very sure," the person replied.

Without hesitation, Zhou immediately dialed back. "Hello, I'm from Hongye Company... Yes... Yes... How... Our TV drama... But..." His expression told everyone that this was true. Higher authorities had indeed halted all their film and television productions.

The atmosphere turned somber.

No one even considered involving Dong Xuebing. Perhaps, due to their subjective judgment of his appearance and age, they didn't think he had any capabilities. They didn't know why disaster had struck so suddenly. Only Deputy Chief Chang looked deeply at Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing remained silent, smoking his cigarette.

Yu Meixia knew Dong Xuebing's capabilities. "Xuebing, you..."

Dong Xuebing smiled. "Let them struggle. Let's sit back. There's no rush to go back. Let's enjoy the show." After all the turmoil, he naturally wanted to see his victorious outcome and savor the expressions of these people. Dong Xuebing thoroughly enjoyed it.

Then, Mr. Zhou, General Manager Wu, and the others hurried out, seemingly to make phone calls and contact people.

Once they left, only the people from the police station, including Dong Xuebing and Yu Meixia, remained, making the atmosphere more relaxed without outsiders.

Deputy Chief Chang walked over with a smile, extending his hand. "Mr. Dong, I'm from Shuangjing Police Station. You can call me Old Chang."

Dong Xuebing politely stood up and shook his hand. "Brother Chang."

"No, no need to be so polite." Deputy Chief Chang was very respectful. "I didn't help much this time. I'm sorry."

Dong Xuebing smiled. "You've already helped a lot. Thank you. Thank you to all the comrades from the police station as well. I'll treat everyone to dinner another day."

The police officers were all stunned. Seeing Deputy Chief Chang's attitude, they finally understood what was going on. This young man had an extraordinary background. No wonder Deputy Chief Chang immediately took a conciliatory approach and delayed their response for a long time. However, they still didn't know his true background or his level of influence. Wait a minute, could it be that he was responsible for the suspension of Hongye Company's broadcasts?

Definitely!

The police officers exchanged astonished glances.

However, they also felt that even if this young man knew people at the General Administration of Press and Publication, could he surpass Mr. Zhou's connections? After all, he was so young. Although their company's film and television projects were halted, couldn't Mr. Zhou salvage the situation with a few phone calls?

Outside.

Mr. Zhou was thinking the same thing. He started to consider that the young man might be behind all this, trying to demonstrate his power. However, Mr. Zhou felt a chill in his heart. So you have power, but do I not? He had been in this circle for so many years that he didn't believe he could match a young person's network.

So Mr. Zhou called an old friend. "Hello, Director Sun, it's me."

"Oh, Mr. Zhou, what made you think of calling me?" Director Sun smiled.

Mr. Zhou smiled wryly. "Encountered some trouble, I must trouble you. Just moments ago, your bureau ordered a complete halt to all our company's film and television projects indefinitely. I wanted to inquire about what's going on."

Director Sun was taken aback. "Halted? How come I didn't know?"

"I just received the news myself. I thought you might be aware," Zhou blinked.

Director Sun was also a senior figure in the General Administration and was closely related to Mr. Zhou. Many projects had almost passed through his hands. So, Director Sun was slightly annoyed. How could such a big decision to stop projects not be communicated to him? What was going on?

Director Sun immediately said, "Forget it. I'll find out for you!"

Mr. Zhou was certain. He didn't believe Director Sun couldn't handle this.

Five minutes later, Director Sun called back. However, his attitude had changed. He hesitated briefly before saying, "Old Zhou, it's not that I don't want to help you. This halt came directly from higher authorities. Even after trying to negotiate, there's nothing more I can do."

Zhou was dumbfounded. "What? How could this happen? You..."

Director Sun asked, "Have you offended someone?"

"I... I haven't," Zhou's heart skipped a beat.

Director Sun didn't believe him. "Don't blame me for not reminding you. If you've offended someone, you better fix things quickly. Maybe there's still a glimmer of hope. Otherwise, your film and television projects won't pass the review. I can tell you for sure that's impossible. Someone higher up is pressing down on this."

Zhou was unwilling. "Then should I go to Director Liu and others again?"

Director Sun sighed, "It's useless to say more. But given our relationship over the years, I can tell you, this matter... it's useless no matter who you try to find."

"Director Sun!"

"That's it, I'm hanging up."

Beep beep beep, the line disconnected.

Useless no matter who you try to find? Useless no matter who you try to find?

Mr. Zhou repeated these words in his mind, his face growing paler. He looked towards the monitoring room not far away, finally realizing the caliber of person he had offended!

This is bad!

He might have played a big game this time!

Chapter 1718

In the hallway,

With the TV series and movie halted it was now a matter of life and death for the company. Mr. Zhou naturally clung to every shred of hope; he couldn't bear to watch the company go bankrupt. These were the fruits of decades of hard work. So, after finishing his call with Director Sun, Mr. Zhou hastily dialed several other leaders he knew or had dealt with.

"Hello, Director Liu," Mr. Zhou hurriedly said.

"Xiao Zhou, what's the matter?" a middle-aged man said from the other end.

Mr. Zhou didn't have time for pleasantries. He got straight to the point: "Director Liu, our company's film projects have stalled. You also know these were years in the making for us. Nearly all of our funds are tied up in them. If they get halted, the consequences are unimaginable. Could you find a way to help us?"

The implication was crystal clear.

Mr. Zhou felt he would use his money since personal relationships were not working. There had to be a way. He had always handled situations like this with ease. Frankly, at this point, he wasn't willing to admit that he was being outmaneuvered by someone much younger. If there were other options, Mr. Zhou wouldn't apologize to Dong Xuebing or Yu Meixia. At his position and age, saving face was often more important than anything else. Thinking of Dong Xuebing's arrogance, Mr. Zhou didn't want to lower himself. He would rather spend more money to resolve the matter, considering it a case of spending money to resolve the crisis, at least not admitting defeat to them.

However, Mr. Zhou's plan was once again unsuccessful.

The middle-aged man on the other end of the phone didn't even think about it when he heard it. He said, "I just found out about the halt, and I'm powerless."

Mr. Zhou anxiously asked, "Can you tell me which leader ordered the halt?"

"It won't be useful if you know, and I can't say," the middle-aged man replied.

"Director Liu, please help us once. As long as the company survives this crisis, I promise..." Mr. Zhou was about to say more.

The middle-aged man interrupted, "Xiao Zhou, take care of yourself."

After saying that, he hung up. Mr. Zhou's face changed slightly, and he fell silent for a long time.

Then, he reluctantly called another leader, but whether the other party had received advance notice, they didn't answer his call. Mr. Zhou made another call, and this time, not only did the other party not answer, but they directly hung up, prompting the busy tone indicating that the line was busy. This attitude was already apparent—they didn't even want to talk to him, let alone have room for discussion. They had drawn a clear line.

These were all leaders with absolute power that Mr. Zhou knew!

Mr. Zhou had never expected that their attitudes would be so uniform. It chilled him to the bone!

Who exactly did Dong Xuebing contact? Which level of leader halted their projects? There wasn't even room for negotiation or explanation.

This was bad!

If he couldn't even talk, how could he exert any effort?

Meanwhile, General Manager Wu and other senior executives hurried over.

"Mr. Zhou."

"What happened?"

"As for the halt..."

The senior executives held company shares, affecting their livelihoods and financial resources. They couldn't afford to care. If the company went bankrupt, it would not be good for everyone!

Mr. Zhou looked at them but didn't say a word.

They exchanged pale-faced glances, clearly understanding that it hadn't worked out. Were even those leaders who had a good relationship with Mr. Zhou powerless?

In the hallway.

"How did it come to this?"

"How did things get halted out of nowhere?"

"If these two projects are indefinitely suspended, not only will they never be released, but even a delay of three months or half a year would break the company. The funding chain would have long snapped!"

"Could it be that young guy who caused this?"

"It must be him. Who else could it be?"

"But isn't this too quick? He just made a few calls, and our projects were stopped. The review procedures can't move that fast!"

"Well, who knows? That guy seems a bit spooky."

The executives discussed anxiously, all worried about their futures.

General Manager Wu couldn't care less about his injured mouth and spoke urgently, "Mr. Zhou, what do we do now?"

Apart from Mr. Zhou, he held the most shares in the company and was the most anxious person after Mr. Zhou.

Mr. Zhou still didn't say a word, closing his eyes and remaining silent for a long time, seemingly pondering and calming his emotions.

One second...

Ten seconds...

The atmosphere in the hallway became increasingly oppressive.

Suddenly, the door to the monitoring room opened. Deputy Director Chang and a police officer walked out. The officer continued investigating, questioning witnesses, while Deputy Director

Chang headed to the restroom. In a short while, he finished washing his hands and walked out, glancing at Mr. Zhou and the others over there.

Mr. Zhou approached him, "Deputy Director Chang."

"Hmm?" Deputy Director Chang glanced at him absentmindedly.

Mr. Zhou paused. His expression had already changed. From a previously indifferent attitude, he suddenly appeared calm and composed. It couldn't be said that he wasn't anxious, "What you suggested just now was right. This matter isn't a big deal. Let's listen to you and settle this privately between us."

Mr. Zhou unexpectedly made a concession.

Yes, saving face was more important than anything else, but sometimes it wasn't worth much.

Hearing this, Deputy Director Chang inwardly sneered, thinking, 'Why the hell didn't you say that earlier?' He knew that Dong Xuebing wasn't ordinary, so he had come to help each other out from the start, intending to resolve the matter amicably, which would have benefited everyone. But what about them? They thought I was out to get them, constantly demanding and arrogant, even challenging me.

Now you want to settle?

Where were you earlier?

Deputy Director Chang had no intention of intervening. He stated professionally, "Settlement is possible, but it's up to the parties involved to negotiate."

Mr. Zhou hesitated, "You're a policeman. I think a police officer should intervene."

Deputy Director Chang couldn't be bothered to entertain him, "I can't intervene. I initially tried to mediate for your sake, but you disagreed first. We've dealt with each other many times, and I was initially trying to help you. You should see that now. But you didn't appreciate it. I can do nothing now." After Mr. Zhou and the others didn't give him face, Deputy Director Chang had previously made it clear that if problems arose, they shouldn't come looking for him. Deputy Director Chang certainly wasn't going to retract his statement now. Now, you want me to get involved? It's too late!

Mr. Zhou and several company executives all looked a bit embarrassed. Initially, they hadn't anticipated Dong Xuebing's background or his significant influence within the Radio and Television Bureau. That's why, even after General Manager Wu's scandalous intentions toward women, they didn't feel they were in the wrong. They just wanted to give Dong Xuebing a lesson to uphold the company's credibility. This led them not to give Deputy Director Chang and the police station any face. However, who could have predicted such a dramatic turn of events? It was too late for regrets now.

"Deputy Director Chang, please help us," another senior executive from the company also grasped the situation. Mr. Zhou bowed his head, indicating that things had reached a desperate point. They naturally understood that the company's survival now depended on the attitude of that young man named Dong inside.

Deputy Director Chang waved his hand. "I've said you need to negotiate and mediate among yourselves. Our police station can only provide a venue for mediation at best."

General Manager Wu was still furious about being beaten by Dong Xuebing. "But what about the assault?"

Deputy Director Chang replied, "If you can't settle privately, our police station will intervene. But I believe both sides are at fault in this matter."

General Manager Wu angrily retorted, "But they accused me without evidence!"

No evidence? You're still talking about whether there's evidence or not?

Deputy Director Chang was annoyed by him and didn't even bother responding.

"Old Wu!" Mr. Zhou shouted, "Shut your mouth!"

General Manager Wu's face darkened. He gritted his teeth but remained silent.

General Manager Wu caused the whole incident and stirred up trouble for their company with this mysterious figure. Mr. Zhou wouldn't show him any favor. Evidence? It wasn't about evidence anymore. Mr. Dong had already clarified earlier that he didn't need evidence. Indeed, the facts proved his capability. With his influence, Mr. Zhou's entire company had struggled to get the TV series approved for over a month. Still, he canceled the approval with one phone call in ten minutes. It was clear he intended to take down their company. Bringing up evidence now was meaningless; everyone understood their company's bad behavior started this.

Mr. Zhou had lost his arrogance long ago. Even his tone softened to the extreme. He looked at Deputy Director Chang and said, "We were rude before. I just arrived and didn't fully understand the situation. So, it was a bit abrupt. If there's anything offensive, please forgive me. Later, we'll need your help to speak. Regardless of the outcome, I'll absolutely comply if you say a word." He offered a blank check.

Deputy Director Chang didn't care about that. Help them speak? Nonsense! That guy inside can even command the secretary of the Municipal Party Committee. If I help them speak, wouldn't I just be causing more trouble? Do they think I don't have enough on my plate? If this had started earlier, when the young man asked Mr. Zhou and them to apologize, Deputy Director Chang could have helped mediate a bit, and there wouldn't have been a problem. But now, it was too late because the company's senior management had escalated the situation to an irreconcilable point. Deputy Director Chang certainly wouldn't stir up trouble now. He doubted if this matter could even be mediated. That young man's temper was unusually foul!

Chapter 1719

Afternoon.

It was well past lunchtime.

However, Dong Xuebing was still sitting in the company's monitoring room on the first floor with Yu Meixia. They smoked cigarettes while chatting casually. At this point, he had already taught the lesson he intended, and Yu Meixia's anger had subsided. Dong Xuebing could have left long ago, but he chose to stay to see the faces of these arrogant fellows. He wasn't in a hurry to leave.

"Are you hungry, Sister Yu?" Dong asked.

"I'm okay, not hungry," she replied.

"Me neither. Let's sit a bit longer then."

"Mr. Dong, would you like a cigarette? Try one of mine," Yu Meixia offered.

"Just finished one, not smoking anymore. Officer, why don't you have mine?" Dong Xuebing declined politely.

"Wow, this is good tobacco. Thanks," the officer said, taking one.

As Dong Xuebing chatted with Yu Meixia, he also got along well with the police officers in the room. This left a particularly good impression on the officers. A person of such significant influence treating them with such courtesy overturned their previous impression of Dong Xuebing as arrogant. They now realized he was only assertive when provoked. In contrast, those people from the company were truly arrogant.

Suddenly, the door opened.

The officers looked over. "Deputy Chang."

Deputy Director Chang nodded and found a place to sit.

Soon after, the company's senior management, led by Mr. Zhou, began to trickle into the room. Each person had a different expression: some were angry, some felt stifled, some were irritated, and others seemed resigned.

One person... Three people... Five people...

Counting, there were a total of seven or eight people.

Dong Xuebing, however, didn't even glance at them and continued chatting with Yu Meixia.

As the company's boss, Mr. Zhou naturally came forward first. He glanced at Dong Xuebing and changed his address, "Mr. Dong, Sister Yu."

Dong Xuebing still ignored him.

Only Yu Meixia glanced weakly at them.

Although Mr. Zhou felt very uncomfortable, bowing his head in front of such a young man was a blow to his pride. However, his attitude remained sincere because he understood the situation. In this current situation, he couldn't afford not to apologize. "I arrived later. I wasn't fully aware of the situation before. Based on subjective speculation, misunderstandings were caused. I'm truly sorry. I've just clarified the matter. Indeed, our general manager made inappropriate remarks and demands towards Sister Yu Meixia during the interview, causing you trouble and harm. On behalf of the company, I apologize to you. I'm sorry."

After speaking, Mr. Zhou bowed deeply to Yu Meixia.

The other executives followed suit, bowing to Yu Meixia.

"I'm sorry."

"My apologies."

"We're truly sorry."

Clearly, Mr. Zhou had already instructed them outside. Dong Xuebing had demanded an apology from their senior management earlier, and they had no choice but to comply.

General Manager Wu was no exception. He was the most reluctant among them because he had been the one assaulted. Emotionally, he was more complex, but seeing Mr. Zhou bow first, he had no choice but to follow suit. Bending down, he met Dong Xuebing's gaze, and suddenly, General Manager Wu felt a burning sensation on his face. Clenching his fists, he felt highly stifled.

Mr. Zhou glanced at him.

With a serious expression, Mr. Wu took a deep breath and said to Yu Meixia, "Ms. Yu, I was wrong before and caused you distress. I apologize."

By saying this, they essentially admitted to the attempted harassment of Yu Meixia during the interview. In their view, this issue had become minor and irrelevant. Holding Mr. Wu accountable or worrying about the company's reputation no longer mattered. The young man would not let them off if they didn't acknowledge this. Reputation? What reputation is there to speak of when the company is on the verge of bankruptcy? You need a company before you can have a reputation. So, the way to handle this matter was clear.

This took the pressure off the police station. If they had previously insisted on prosecuting Dong Xuebing for assault, it would have been difficult for the police to handle. Arrest him? Secretary Shen had already given instructions, so they dared not arrest him. But if they didn't arrest him, it would also be problematic since the situation had escalated, and someone was indeed injured. Mr. Zhou knew many influential people, making him a formidable opponent. The police station would have been in a tough spot. But now that the company admitted their general manager's attempted harassment of Yu Meixia, her friend's intervention was justified. It wouldn't be too much if he had beaten them up twice. Although assault is wrong, the reasons behind it were compelling enough for the police to turn a blind eye unless it resulted in severe injury or death. After all, who would blame someone for defending their friend from harassment?

Mr. Zhou noticed that Dong Xuebing remained unmoved and said, "We have considered this matter carefully. Given the harm done to Ms. Yu Meixia, our company can offer her the second lead role in our next film. She won't need to audition; she can have the part immediately. I will inform the director."

He had a good plan. Bringing Yu Meixia into the project was a form of compensation and apology. Moreover, if Yu Meixia joined the film, they would need to solve the funding issue. The only way to do that was to release the halted TV series and movies, ensuring they had the money for the next project.

However, Yu Meixia waved her hands repeatedly, saying, "I don't want to act."

Mr. Zhou quickly asked, "Why? This is a rare opportunity. Even as the second lead, you will be acting alongside a famous second-tier actress, which could be a great boost..."

Dong Xuebing interrupted coldly, "Even if my friend wanted to act, it's none of your concern."

The company's people fell silent. Indeed, with Dong Xuebing's connections in the State Administration of Radio, Film, and Television, they hardly needed their help to get roles.

Mr. Zhou asked, "How do you want to resolve this?"

Dong Xuebing shrugged, "I already mentioned how to resolve this before, but you pushed me to this point. You all were so arrogant and talked back to me. What do you think you were boasting about? Now, do you remember to apologize? Too late. Let me tell you, I don't need your compensation or apology. How to resolve it? There's nothing left to resolve. I've already taken care of what needed to be done. This matter ends here."

"But our film and TV projects..." one executive started.

Dong Xuebing replied coldly, "I don't care about your projects. What do they have to do with me? Let's go, Sister Yu. Let's have lunch."

Chapter 1720

Hallway.

Dong Xuebing opened the door and walked out, with Yu Meixia hurriedly following behind. This action stunned many of the company's senior executives. They had assumed Dong Xuebing was waiting for their apology and conditions, but unexpectedly, he left without any demands. After watching the spectacle for a while, he left. They couldn't understand why he had stayed if he was so resolute in his stance. It felt like being deceived, and everyone was speechless. They didn't know Dong Xuebing's character; he had always been this unscrupulous. Many had suffered under his rogue behavior before, and their company wouldn't be the first or the last.

Deputy Director Chang also walked out. "Since it's been settled privately, we won't get involved anymore. Let's go, wrap it up."

The police officers followed suit and began to leave.

As Dong Xuebing turned around, he thanked Deputy Chang. "Thanks a lot, Officer Chang."

"We're just doing our duty," Deputy Director Chang replied politely.

"Thank you, comrades," Dong Xuebing added. "By the way, we're going out for lunch. It's well past noon. Haven't you eaten yet? Let's go together. My treat. We can find a restaurant downstairs. How about it?"

Deputy Director Chang blinked. "Well... that's fine."

"Great, it's settled then," Dong Xuebing said, heading towards the lobby.

Seeing Dong Xuebing about to leave, Mr. Zhou and the other company executives became anxious. Moments ago, Mr. Zhou had maintained an apologetic expression mixed with a hint of dignity. Now unable to sit still, he hurriedly followed. They couldn't let Dong Xuebing leave. While it might be a minor issue for him, it was a matter of life and death for their company.

Bankruptcy?

They certainly didn't want that!

"Wait! Please wait!" Mr. Zhou caught up and pleaded.

"There's nothing more to say. It's settled," Dong Xuebing replied firmly.

Seeing this, Mr. Zhou rushed forward. Even General Manager Wu, who Dong Xuebing had assaulted, stepped forward quickly. He didn't want to witness the company's bankruptcy either.

In the lobby...

Mr. Zhou immediately said, "Everyone, I'll treat you to lunch. We've delayed you, and we should make amends. Please accept it as a token of our sincerity."

Dong Xuebing waved his hand. "No need."

Mr. Zhou continued hurriedly, "Actually, we've already booked a restaurant. There's no need to wait. The food will be served immediately. Please do us the honor."

Dong Xuebing remained silent.

The officers from the police station also remained quiet.

Gradually, everyone started to leave.

Mr. Zhou instructed General Manager Wu nearby, "Get a car!"

General Manager Wu understood the seriousness of the situation. If they let Dong Xuebing go, their company would be finished. There would be no turning back. Even though he still harbored resentment towards Dong Xuebing, he had to hold it in. Ignoring the pain in his mouth and nose, he immediately called someone, shouting loud enough for the staff outside to hear. They quickly went to find a car.

Mr. Zhou blocked the way and delayed Dong Xuebing. "Mr. Dong, Ms. Yu, there's been a misunderstanding. It was our oversight. It's all our fault. Please don't hold it against us. We're just a small business, and it's really... quite difficult."

Dong Xuebing chuckled. "You're a small business? I thought you were quite well off before?"

Mr. Zhou smiled bitterly. "We underestimated the situation... underestimated it indeed."

Many of the employees in the lobby still didn't understand what was happening. Just moments ago, when they entered the surveillance room, things weren't like this. How did it happen that Mr. Zhou and Mr. Wu suddenly were lowering their heads to that person? Didn't that young man vandalize their company and even hit someone? What's going on here? Everyone was puzzled, their faces full of astonishment, looking around.

Mr. Zhou no longer cared about saving face. Saving face? You could only do that if you had a face to save. If the company went under and left everyone in debt, he wouldn't know where to hide his face. He naturally understood what was more important and had already made his calculations.

"Mr. Dong!"

"Let's just move on, okay?"

"Please, just one meal to save face!"

The saying goes, "Extend your hand without hitting a smiling face." Mr. Zhou and his company were in such a state that Mr. Dong couldn't afford to be tough with them. Dong Xuebing himself was a very kind person. After all, he grew up in a poor family and didn't have many bad habits. His actions of hitting people and being arrogant were mostly forced upon him. Otherwise, he was generally polite and courteous to others.

They walked intermittently until they finally left the company building. Outside, two cars were already waiting there. Mr. Zhou and Mr. Wu personally opened the doors of one of the cars.

"Ladies and gentlemen, please, as a gesture of goodwill. Miss Yu, please, come on."

Mr. Zhou signaled to a female employee.

The female employee understood upon seeing this and immediately approached, grabbing Yu Meixia with a smile and urging her into the car. Yu Meixia wasn't like Mr. Dong in terms of temperament. She had always been gentle and soft-hearted. Seeing someone plead with her like this, she somewhat absent-mindedly got into the car.

"Mr. Dong, Deputy Chief Chang, please."

Mr. Dong pursed his lips, but seeing Miss Yu already inside, he had no choice but to give a glance to Deputy Chief Chang.

"Deputy Chief Chang, shall we accept their invitation?"

Deputy Chief Chang smiled, "Up to you."

Dong Xuebing nodded and stooped into the car.

Deputy Chief Chang and the others got into the following Mercedes-Benz.

A few minutes later.

The cars arrived at the restaurant diagonally across the street. Mr. Zhou and several company executives exited the car first, courteously ushering Dong Xuebing and his group inside. They entered the private room that had been pre-booked and instructed the waiter to serve the dishes. Then Mr. Zhou promptly told a few executives something and immediately pulled a young man out of the room, seemingly to discuss something.

Outside.

The young man looked troubled. "Mr. Zhou."

"Call a few celebrities to accompany us."

"Now?" The young man was surprised, "Isn't it too late?"

"It's never too late! Tell Yoyo and the others that if they don't make it within twenty minutes, the movie won't premiere today, and they won't be needed for any future TV shows or movies invested by the company. We have an important guest today; tell them to come immediately!"

The young man gritted his teeth. "Okay, I'll contact them!"

"Make sure nothing goes wrong!" Mr. Zhou reminded repeatedly.

The young man knew it was a critical moment. "I understand. You can trust me."

After Mr. Zhou finished speaking, he returned to the private room, his face again smiling.

The young man immediately took out his phone and started making calls. Of course, his priority was to call the person Mr. Zhou mentioned, Chen Ying.

"Hello, Chen Ying?"

The voice on the other end was soft and gentle. "Brother Wang?"

"The boss wants you to come over. It's urgent."

"Urgent matter? What's going on?" The woman was momentarily stunned.

"We have a very important guest today. Mr. Zhou insists that you come to the dinner; otherwise, our movie won't be able to premiere," the young man explained.

"Why?" The woman was puzzled.

"I can't explain it right now. Just come over. That's all you need to know." The woman furrowed her brows.

"Accompanying drinks?" The young man nodded, "Hurry up. I'll explain more when you get here."

Chen Ying was a second-tier actress, barely qualifying as third-tier. She had starred in several movies, but none had brought her significant fame. She was also the lead actress in the upcoming movie; her salary had been settled, but visibility was more important for many celebrities. If a movie paid well but never got released, it wouldn't help her career; it would just keep her stagnant. This was ultimately about money. "How did this happen? Wasn't it supposed to premiere early this year?"

"It got stuck somewhere. The State Administration of Radio, Film, and Television disapproved. They need you to accompany them for this." The young man explained. "For heaven's sake, come over, and Mr. Zhou and the company are impatient!"

The woman hesitated. "Can I prepare myself first?"

"Hurry up," the young man urged anxiously. "Otherwise, forget about any chances with our next movie. No matter what your management company thinks, our next movie has already started casting. If you can resolve this, you'll have an eighty percent chance of being the lead actress. I can promise you that on behalf of the company. Moreover, we've cooperated for several years, and our reputation is solid, right? We've helped you a lot, haven't we?"

"I know that," the woman responded.

"Then I'll send you the address of the restaurant."

"... Alright," the woman agreed reluctantly.

"Ying Ying, your first TV drama was picked by our company, and we have high hopes for you. Future collaborations won't be an issue. Just hurry over, okay?"

"Alright," the woman agreed.

Twenty minutes later, dishes began to arrive.

Mr. Zhou greeted Dong Xuebing and Yu Meixia and told them to start eating. Just then, the private room door was pushed open, and several women entered one after another.

There was a plump middle-aged woman, a petite girl, and even a girl in a school uniform.

The police officers looked straight at them; obviously, someone recognized them.

"Isn't she the one from that show?"

"Isn't she Sister Rong from that TV drama?"

Deputy Director Chang also glanced at them a few more times, understanding Mr. Zhou's intentions.

On the other hand, Dong Xuebing didn't recognize any of them. It couldn't be helped; he liked watching movies and had some free time recently. Previously, he had not been interested in TV dramas or the entertainment circle. However, judging by the police officers' attitudes, Dong Xuebing also understood that the other side should be small stars who had acted in TV dramas or movies. Thinking of this, Dong Xuebing had no response. He was a very principled person. Despite his lecherous nature and inability to move away from women, he had never engaged in corrupt activities!