

PAW 641

Chapter 641 – Setting a trap for Liu Gang

The weather is scorching hot.

Dong Xuebing lit a cigarette when driving along District's East to West main road, and he checked his rear-view mirror and saw the red Charade is still following him.

Dong Xuebing laughed and called Xu Yan. "Hello, Sister Xu?"

"Xiao Dong? What is it?"

"A reporter is tailing me."

"Oh? Which reporter and what happened?"

"It's that Liu Gang. I think he wants to nit-pick on me and get something to write about in tomorrow's article."

"Following and monitoring a Government Leader? He is quite brave."

"That's why I am thinking of teaching him a lesson. Are you free now? I will go and look for you."

"Alright. Do you still remember my unit's family quarter's location? I will make arrangements. Let's meet there."

Dong Xuebing knows Xu Yan longer than Xie Huilan. He doesn't need to say his plan, and Xu Yan knows what he wants. After hanging up, he made a right turn at the next junction and drove towards Xu Yan's quarters.

The Charade continues to follow Dong Xuebing closely.

Liu Gang had learned all sorts of following techniques in the past seven to eight years as a reporter. He secretly tailed others when he was alone in the field conducting secret investigations. That's how he gets so many scandalous news to report. Although he is following Dong Xuebing's Cayenne, he keeps a distance of two to three cars to prevent from being discovered.

This technique might be safe, but it is easy for Liu Gang to lose his target. After all, there's some distance between him and his target, and he might not catch up at the next junction. He knows that Porsche is more powerful than his car. If the target suddenly speeds up, he can never catch up.

But Liu Gang is lucky. The traffic is heavy, and there's no way for the Cayenne to pick up speed. Also, Dong Xuebing followed the traffic rules. He even signals before he makes any turns. This made it easier for Liu Gang to follow.

Liu Gang is tailing Dong Xuebing smoothly.

Where is Dong Xuebing going? This place is too far from the Subdistrict Office.

It's still office hours, and why is Dong Xuebing ditching his work? Where is he going?

Liu Gang had a smirk as he sensed this might be something big he could use against Dong Xuebing. Suddenly, the Cayenne turns into a side road.

Liu Gang is cautious and does not turn into the sideroad. It will be too obvious. He stopped his car outside the sideroad and saw the Cayenne stopping outside a small estate. He had not been here, and this place seems to be secluded. That small estate looks ordinary and feels like it's a living quarter for some small company that is not doing well. Dong Xuebing alighted and looked around suspiciously.

Dong Xuebing must be up to something.

Liu Gang quickly lowered his body to hide from Dong Xuebing and grabbed his digital camera from his bag.

One minute....

Three minutes....

Five minutes....

Liu Gang finally got what he was waiting for. A black Brilliance Auto sedan car stopped in front of Dong Xuebing. The registration plate number looks ordinary, and it even has the number '4' in it. This car is not expensive and is a domestic-made car. A middle-aged woman, around her forties, alighted from the car. She is attractive and womanly.

Dong Xuebing and that woman chatted and smiled, but Liu Gang could not hear what they were talking about.

This might be normal, but Liu Gang is a reporter. His imagination immediately runs wild.

Is this woman Dong Xuebing's mother? Cannot be. Dong Xuebing is 25 years old, and his mother should be approaching her fifties. This woman looks too young, and she doesn't resemble Dong Xuebing at all. Most importantly, their facial expressions are different. Dong Xuebing seems respectful of that woman and doesn't look like he is talking to his relative. Furthermore, they are meeting in a secluded place. Who would meet their relative here?

Liu Gang got excited and felt there must be something going on between them.

This woman should be married at her age. Suppose Liu Gang can get evidence of Dong Xuebing having an affair with a married woman. In that case, it will be tomorrow's headlines. He immediately takes a few pictures of Dong Xuebing and that woman.

But Dong Xuebing and that woman did not enter the small neighborhood estate.

When Liu Gang is wondering when they are going in, the woman returns to her car. Dong Xuebing did not return to his Porsche but entered the woman's car.

After that, the Brilliance Auto car turns around and drives towards Liu Gang. Liu Gang quickly lowers his head to hide. When the engine's sound passed him, he sat up and started his engine. He took a picture of the back of that Brilliance Auto car and followed them.

The Brilliance Auto car is in front, and the Charade follows behind.

The Brilliance Auto car made a left turn, and Liu Gang turned left.

The Brilliance Auto car turns right, and Liu Gang turns right.

After tailing for a while, the black sedan car suddenly stops by a corner in front of a supermarket. Liu Gang quickly stops his car by the roadside. Because the black sedan had stopped at a corner, he could only see the boot from where he parked. He could not see if Dong Xuebing and that woman alighted from the car. He prayed they had not alighted and gone into a hotel and wondered if he should drive forward to see what was going on.

As Liu Gang's imagination ran wild, the black sedan car started moving again.

Liu Gang quickly sped up and followed that black Brilliance Auto car.

But unknown to Liu Gang, a man stepped out of a florist after his car drove past. It is Dong Xuebing. He had alighted from Xu Yan's car.

Chapter 642: Liu Gang is arrested

The Charade tailed the black Brilliance Auto car for six to seven streets.

Liu Gang's phone rang when he was driving. His eyes remained glued to that black Brilliance Auto car while he answered the call. It's Deputy Chief Director Pang Dabing.

"Hello, Cousin."

"How is it? Did you find anything?"

"I saw Dong Xuebing meeting a woman secretly."

"Oh? Do you know what is going on?"

"I am not sure, but I am still following them. They had driven around for a while, and I don't know where they are going."

"Ok. Watch out for your safety, and don't get caught."

"I understand. Eh? They had parked their car. I will hang up first."

"Ok. I am waiting for your good news."

Liu Gang looks at the black Brilliance Auto car not far away and hangs up. They are in a secluded street in Nan Shan District Suburbs. There are not a lot of passersby and cars in this area, and he doesn't dare to park too near to the black Brilliance Auto car. He stopped at a distance and took out his camera to take a few pictures. He noticed there was a hotel nearby, and this discovery made him excited. He sneered and got ready to take pictures of Dong Xuebing and that woman walking into the hotel. That will be evidence of Dong Xuebing having an affair with that woman.

Hurry up and alight from that car, and go into the hotel.

Liu Gang held his camera and looked in that car's direction without blinking.

Suddenly, the black Brilliance Auto car's door opens, and the beautiful middle-aged woman steps out.

The woman closed the door behind her, and Liu Gang did not see Dong Xuebing. He frowned and used his camera to zoom in at the car. Dong Xuebing is not in the front passenger seat, and the black figure in the front passenger seat is not Dong Xuebing. It is the back of the front passenger seat. He is puzzled why Dong Xuebing had disappeared after boarding that car.

The woman turned and walked towards Liu Gang's Charade.

Liu Gang's heart skipped a beat, and he wondered how he was discovered. He quickly threw his camera aside and wanted to drive away. Tailing someone is illegal and tailing a government leader is a serious crime. He cannot be caught.

But it's too late for Liu Gang to escape.

A few loud screeches sounded around Liu Gang.

Two black sedan cars came to a screeching stop. One stopped in front of the Charade, and the other stopped behind it, boxing Liu Gang in the center. He immediately knew it was bad. He still doesn't know what is going on, and his first reaction is to keep his camera in his pocket and run. His reaction is fast, but five other men in plain clothes are faster. They alighted from the two black sedan cars and surrounded Liu Gang.

Who are these people?

Bodyguards?

Liu Gang is scared and anxious. He looked towards that woman and dashed towards her. It will be easier to escape from that weak middle-aged woman if he runs in her direction than those men. He might not be good at fighting, but he is fit and can run fast.

But Liu Gang picked the wrong target.

The middle-aged woman is Xu Yan.

Dong Xuebing had sparred with Xu Yan. If he did not cheat by using his power, he might not win, let alone Liu Gang. The moment Liu Gang ran past Xu Yan, she grabbed his arm and pulled it back. Liu Gang lost his balance and was thrown onto the road.

"Ahhh...." Liu Gang screamed as he landed on the road. His ear grazed against the road, and blood started flowing.

Xu Yan said. "Catch him!"

"Yes, Mdm." The five plainclothes men replied at the same time.

Liu Gang doesn't have time to think about his injuries and gets up to escape.

But those men did not give him any chance. One of the men grabbed Liu Gang's arm and twisted it to his back, letting out a loud crack.

"What are you all doing?" Cold sweat trickled down Liu Gang's back as he shouted in pain.

Another man walked up and punched Liu Gang's face without saying anything.

Bam! Liu Gang spat out a mouthful of blood. "You all....!" He shouted and continued to try to run again.

That man is ruthless and gave Liu Gang another punch before talking.

Liu Gang's face is covered in bruises, and he cannot run anymore. He laid on the road and shouted. "Who are you? Are you trying to kill me? Help!"

A few passersby look over, and a Police patrol bike happens to drive past.

Liu Gang saw that Policeman and shouted at the top of his voice. "Help! Save me!"

The Policeman heard Liu Gang and quickly stopped his bike.

The Policeman got off his bike and walked towards them. "What is going on? Move back, move back."

Liu Gang covered his face and shouted. "Police! They are assaulting me in broad daylight!"

The Policeman's face changed, and he looked at Xu Yan and her men. He reached out for his radio to call for backup.

But one of the plainclothes men walked over and took out a badge with a national emblem. "State Security. We are on a mission."

The Policeman was shocked and looked at Liu Gang with pity. He turned to his bike and rode away.

State Security.... These people are from the State Security!

Liu Gang is stunned. How is this possible? How did he get involved with State Security? Dong Xuebing? Where did Dong Xuebing go?!

Xu Yan glanced at Liu Gang and said. "Bring him back."

Liu Gang no longer dares to retaliate or escape. He knows what sort of place the State Security is, and there's no way for him to escape.

The few men grabbed Liu Gang from the road and pushed him into their car.

Dong Xuebing is leaning against a wall in a corner, watching everything. He is satisfied. You want to find trouble with me?! It's your turn.

Xu Yan turned towards Dong Xuebing before she entered her car.

Dong Xuebing smiled and gestured to Xu Yan.

Xu Yan nodded and boarded her car.

This is the trap set by Dong Xuebing and Xu Yan. This evil idea was taught to him by Xu Yan. When he was still Yan Tai County Investment Promotion Agency Chief, he had gone to Da Feng County to stop their investment fair. Da Feng County sent Public Security Bureau officers to tail Dong Xuebing, and Xu Yan gave him this idea. But those Public Security Bureau officers did not fall for the trap. Liu Gang is unlucky as this trap is used on him now.

Nan Shan District. An office compound with no signboards.

The few cars entered the compound and stopped in front of an office building. Liu Gang is pushed out of the car and brought into the building. This is the Third division's office, and they are in charge of the City's State Security Operations.

A small room in the building.

A State Security staff gave Xu Yan Liu Gang's camera. "Chief, this is the evidence. We found it on him."

Xu Yan nodded and put on a pair of white gloves before checking the camera. She checked the pictures and deleted the pictures with Dong Xuebing in them.

The two staff beside Xu Yan pretended they did not see anything.

"Where is he?" Xu Yan asked.

"He is outside."

"Bring him in."

The staff acknowledges. "Yes, Mdm."

A few seconds later, Liu Gang, who was handcuffed, was escorted into the room by that staff.

Xu Yan looked at Liu Gang and passed the camera to the man beside her. She picked up a file with Liu Gang's personal details and started reading.

Liu Gang is panicking. Beads of sweat kept rolling down from his forehead.

The Third Division Chief looked at Liu Gang. "Name."

"Liu... Liu Gang."

"Occupation?"

"Nan Qi Morning Post.... Reporter."

The Third Division Chief continued. "Tell us who ordered you."

Liu Gang panicked. "What do you mean? I don't understand."

"You don't understand?!" The Third Division Chief shouted. "You had followed our car for almost an hour. We turn left, and you turn left. We turn right, and you turn right. Don't tell me it is a coincidence!"

"Liu Gang quickly explains. "I was not following you, and it's a coincidence. I was going to visit a friend. It's a misunderstanding."

"I think you are trying to visit our State Security Bureau. How dare you tail us?"

"No.... this is a misunderstanding."

The Third Division Chief laughed. "The reporters nowadays are too bold. Tailing movie stars and monitoring Government Leaders. Now, you all are targeting the State Security." The other staff in

the room were also angry. This guy is seeking his death by monitoring Chief Xu. Does he have nothing else to do? Is he crazy?

“Liu Gang, do you know who you are tailing today?” The Third Division Chief asked. “She is our City State Security Bureau Chief!”

Chief?!

The most powerful person in the City State Security Bureau?!

Liu Gang only knows Xu Yan might be a leader, and he did not expect her to be the Chief. His soul almost left his body when he heard this.

Tailing a State Security Bureau Chief?!

Tailing a Division Director ranked Government Leader?!

Holy shit!

Liu Gang almost fell from the chair. He knows he had been set up by Dong Xuebing now.

Dong Xuebing knew he was tailing him and set this trap for him!

Liu Gang is scared and angry. He recalls Dong Xuebing’s suspicious actions and how that Brilliance Auto car stopped suddenly at the corner. Damn! I had fallen into his trap!

Chapter 643: Reporter Liu Gang is a Spy

Interrogation room.

Liu Gang denied he was following Xu Yan and is cursing Dong Xuebing countless times in his heart.

The Third Division Chief coldly said. “Are you still refusing to admit and tell the truth in front of our Chief?”

“I was only passing by that area, and I did not follow anyone.”

“Then why did you run when you saw us?”

“I had to run because a group of men was running towards me. Who knows what do they want with me?”

The court seldom handles cases about tailing someone, and this crime is not very serious. Moreover, it’s hard to gather evidence to prove you are following someone. But this time, Liu Gang was caught red-handed.

The Third Division Chief nodded and took out that digital camera. He showed a few pictures and showed them to Liu Gang. “Explain these.”

These are pictures of the black Brilliance Auto car’s rear, the small estate, and Xu Yan.

Liu Gang’s eyes darted around. “I was not taking pictures of you all. It’s just scenery pictures for an article.”

The other man gave Liu Gang a stare. "Do you know what this place is? Ah? Are you going to write an article about our State Security Bureau's Family Quarters?! Who gave you the orders to do this?"

Family quarters?

Xu Yan puts down the file and says. "This is a very clear picture of me. Is your newspaper agency going to write an article on me?"

Liu Gang started giving excuses. "I... I was passing that area and.... I saw you. You are too beautiful, and I just took a photo of you. I don't have other motives." He knew the evidence was against him, and he couldn't give a good explanation. It is common knowledge that State Security Bureau's Leaders will never appear in media. If the leaders had to be interviewed, it would be written. Their faces cannot be exposed. Just taking a photo of the City State Security Bureau Chief is enough for him to be arrested.

Suddenly, someone knocks and enters the room. "Chief, we had retrieved the CCTV footage."

Xu Yan narrowed her eyes. "Play it."

That man walked to the PC beside and started playing the footage. A few video clips started playing on the monitor. These are the CCTV footage at the traffic junctions. The staff had retrieved all the footage and sorted them quickly. The monitor showed a black Brilliance Auto car traveling on the road and a red Charade following behind. When the black Brilliance Auto car turns, the Charade will turn. When the black Brilliance Auto car stops, the Charade will stop. This continued for almost an hour.

The Third Division Chief looked at Liu Gang. "Do you still dare to say you are not following our Chief?"

This is the evidence.

Liu Gang watched the video clip and noticed a few black cars following him while tailing Xu Yan. Those cars are the ones who arrested him.

Liu Gang kept quiet. He could no longer find excuses.

"Tell me..." Xu Yan tapped the table with her fingers. "What is your motive for monitoring me?"

Liu Gang panicked. "I am not monitoring you.... Alright. I will tell the truth." He doesn't dare to admit he was following a State Security Bureau Chief and decided to tell the truth. "I am writing an article on Guang Ming Subdistrict Office Director, Dong Xuebing. He had beaten up some students and a teacher in Yan Tai County School. The District is concerned about this incident. That's why I decided to follow him around. Later, I saw Dong Xuebing boarding your car, and I continued to follow. Chief.... I am not following you. Have you seen my article in Nan Qi Morning Post today? It is about Dong Xuebing. You can investigate if you don't believe me."

Xu Yan calmly replies. "So, you are following Xiao Dong."

Liu Gang nodded. He had to admit that the punishment would be lighter than following Xu Yan.

"Then where is Xiao Dong?" Xu Yan asked.

"I saw him going into your car and then leaving later."

“Really? How come I don’t know about this?” Xu Yan shook her head. “I met Xiao Dong today, but he did not board my car. I had been alone in my car. You claim you are following him, and you don’t even know if he is in my car or not. Yet, you just tail me?”

Liu Gang is shocked. “You... You and Dong Xuebing were standing outside that neighborhood estate.”

Xu Yan looked at Liu Gang. “We did meet in front of the estate. I was Xiao Dong’s former Leader when we were in Beijing. He oversees my General Affairs Office for me. It’s been a while since we met, and we met for a short chat. Xiao Dong can still be considered a State Security personnel. But he did not board my car. Did you see Xiao Dong when I stopped my car to arrest you? Why did you switch and follow me instead of Xiao Dong? The only explanation is you knew my relationship with Xiao Dong and used this opportunity to lure me out. Your purpose is to monitor my movements.”

This woman is Dong Xuebing’s former Leader?!

Dong Xuebing had worked in State Security Bureau before?!

Liu Gang doesn’t know about this. But he knows Dong Xuebing is not alone when he set this trap for him. Xu Yan is also involved.

Liu Gang jumps up. “What are you all trying to do to me?!”

The Third Division Chief shouted. “What are you trying to do? Why are you monitoring our Bureau Chief?! What is your purpose, and who sent you?”

Liu Gang is furious. “I told you all that I was following Dong Xuebing, and I am a reporter. I am following him for a report! Why would I follow you all?!”

Suddenly, the door opened.

A young man entered and passed a file to Xu Yan politely. “Chief, we had confirmed. Liu Gang had met a few foreigners in the past two days, and he had gone to the US last month. He stayed in the US for five days.”

These are all rubbish. Liu Gang is a reporter and had to interact and interview countless people. It’s normal for him to interview foreign investors and travel overseas for interviews.

But Xu Yan’s face changed when she heard this. “Lock him up and investigate if he is a spy and what information he had leaked. Find out who’s orders he is following.”

Xu Yan had escalated a simple case of tailing into espionage.

Who is Dong Xuebing? He will not give Liu Gang a simple charge of tailing a Government Leader. This is not his style. Since Liu Gang likes to accuse him, he shall do the same.

Liu Gang was stunned.

Spy?!

Following a State Security Bureau Chief?!

Leaking information to foreigners?!

Liu Gang almost vomited blood. F*ck you! Dong Xuebing! Are you trying to kill me?!

Liu Gang is panicking. He will not survive with this charge even if he has ten lives!

Chapter 644: No way to argue

City State Security Third Division Office.

A few State Security staff entered the room and grabbed Liu Gang after Xu Yan gave the orders. He panicked and struggled.

“Let go of me! You all are accusing me!”

“We will find out if you have leaked any information.”

“What’s there to investigate? I had gone for a vacation, and it was my job to interview those foreigners. Let go of me!”

“All these are not up to you. Just cooperate with our investigation from today onwards.”

“All these have nothing to do with me! You all had arrested the wrong person. I did not follow you all! Why can’t you all believe me?”

“It’s useless for you to say all these. We will investigate, and you just need to tell us what you know and did.” Xu Yan said and waved her hand.

The two staff dragged Liu Gang out of the room. “Follow us!”

Xu Yan turns to the Third Division Chief. “Get a detailed statement from him and find out who instigated him.”

“Yes, Mdm.” The Third Division Chief nodded.

The door opened, and Liu Gang was dragged out of the room.

Liu Gang’s legs had gone soft, and are terrified. If he were given a chance, he would never find trouble with Dong Xuebing. He finally understands that Dong Xuebing is not someone without backings. His backing is not a lowly reporter can provoke. The City-State Security Bureau! Even if someone from the District Government, the City Government, tries to help me, they are also powerless against the State Security. State Security is an independent department, and even the City Public Security Bureau cannot interfere with their work. He is in deep trouble now. He shivered at the thought of how long is he going to remain in custody until the investigation was over.

Half an hour later.

Nan Qi Morning Post, Deputy Chief Editor Office.

Someone knocked on the door. “Editor Pang, are you looking for me?”

“Is Liu Gang back?”

“Oh, not yet. I have not seen him since noon.”

“Ok. Ask him to see me when he is back.”

“Ok.” That man left and closed the door behind him.

Pang Dabing is looking at the articles and layout for tomorrow's paper. Most of the articles for tomorrow's papers are ready, and he needs an article to expose Dong Xuebing. He frowned and called Liu Gang. Liu Gang's phone is engaged. This is the fifth time he has called Liu Gang. What is going on? Did he switch off his phone, or is he in an area with no reception? Maybe his phone's battery died. He is still waiting for Liu Gang's article.

Did something happen to Liu Gang?

Pang Dabing shook his head and felt this was not possible. Liu Gang had worked as a reporter for many years and is smart. Furthermore, what can happen to him?

Pang Dabing looks at his watch, and there's still time.

Pang Dabing remembers Liu Gang had mentioned that he had discovered something on Dong Xuebing during their last phone call. That means he should have a scoop. If they can get something negative about Dong Xuebing, they don't need to write fake articles to tarnish his reputation. Pang Dabing would prefer to use the truth than using fake news. He doesn't want to get involved in unnecessary trouble even if the higher-up is willing to back him. If Liu Gang could not get anything, he would continue to write about Dong Xuebing assault incidents to incite the people. This can also tarnish Dong Xuebing's reputation.

Suddenly, loud footsteps can be heard from outside.

"Hey, who are you all looking for?"

"Is Pang Dabing around?"

"Do you have an appointment with Chief Pang? Hey... wait.... What are you all doing?!"

The door was pushed open, and four men in plainclothes entered, followed by the newspaper agency staff who couldn't stop them. "Chief Pang, they...."

Pang Dabing frowned. "Who are you?"

The person in front asked. "Are you Pang Dabing?"

"What do you think?" Pang Dabing is furious. He had encountered such incidents before. People had barged into his office to create trouble because of some newspaper articles published, and he is used to it. "I am busy now. Go out and wait in the resting area." He said and continued with his work.

That man smiled. "I don't think I can wait, and I don't care if you are busy now."

That man turned. "Xiao Liu, go and check his identification."

"Yes." One of the men walked over.

"What are you all trying to do?" Pang Dabing is furious and stands up.

Xiao Liu doesn't care and reaches out for Pang Dabing's pocket.

Pang Dabing pushed Xiao Liu away.

But Xiao Liu didn't flinch. He grabbed Pang Dabing's wrist and used a simple grasp technique to pin him onto the desk. Bam! He pressed Pang Dabing's face against a document on the desk, and his face was imprinted with some words because of the wet ink.

Pang Dabing shouted angrily. "How dare you all create trouble here?! Get the security!"

The staff quickly runs out of the office.

Xiao Liu took out a leather wallet from Pang Dabing's pocket and walked back to his leader with the Identification card. "That's right. He is Pang Dabing."

The middle-aged man nodded. "Bring him back!"

The other two men walked over quickly to subdue Pang Dabing.

The middle-aged man continued. "Leave one man here. I want every corner searched and protected the scene. No one is allowed to enter."

"Yes, Sir!" That man put on a pair of white gloves and started to search for evidence.

Pang Dabing is shocked and knows something is wrong. "Who are you, people?"

The middle-aged man showed his identification. "We are from the State Security. Come with us!"

Pang Dabing is confused. He doesn't understand why State Security wanted him.

Two cars entered Nan Qi Morning Post's agency a few moments later. A group of men entered Pang Dabing's office. Another group of men went to Liu Gang's workstation to search for evidence. The news agency staff, which are not working, called their colleagues to tell them State Security Bureau Officers searched Liu Gang and Pang Dabing's apartment at their family quarters.

Deputy Chief Editor Pang was brought away by State Security.

Reporter Liu Gang should also be arrested.

Everyone in the newspaper agency is shocked to see Pang Dabing being dragged into a car. What crimes did they commit?

City State Security Bureau.

Pang Dabing was brought into a room.

Xu Yan is seated in the center, and the Third Division Chief and other staff are beside her.

Pang Dabing is furious about getting arrested for no reason. The State Security had sent their Officers to arrest him in his office, and his reputation will be tarnished. All this while, he was the one tarnishing other people's reputations. He never expected it would happen to him. "Why did you all arrest me? I am a law-abiding citizen and have done nothing to harm the nation. How can you all arrest me and search my house? You all better have a good explanation, or else, I will not let you all off!" Pang Dabing shouted, but he was trembling inside.

The Third Division Chief looked at Pang Dabing. "You should know why you are arrested."

"I don't know what you are talking about." Pang Dabing coldly replies.

"Fine. Let me remind you." The Third Division Chief replied. "Is Liu Gang your cousin?"

“Yes.” Pang Dabing answered. “What’s wrong with it?”

“Liu Gang had spoken to you three times this afternoon from his phone records. What did you ask him to do?”

Pang Dabing becomes cautious. “It is about work-related matters. Is it a crime to talk to him over the phone? We are talking about tomorrow’s news article. I did not ask him to do anything.”

“Are you sure? This is different from what we know.” The Third Division Chief threw a file in front of Pang Dabing. “Read this yourself. This is handwritten by Liu Gang. He claimed you had ordered him to investigate Guang Ming Subdistrict Office Director Dong Xuebing.”

Pang Dabing cursed in his heart. What is Liu Gang doing? Why does he need to mention me? “I don’t know anything about this and did not give him any orders. He did not tell me anything.” He knows following a Government Leader is illegal.

The Third Division Chief continued. “It’s fine if you don’t want to admit. We have the evidence.” He took out another file. “You and Liu Gang are very close after he joined Nan Qi Morning Post, and you two are relatives. I am not afraid to tell you that he is arrested for monitoring and tailing our City State Security Bureau Chief this afternoon.”

Monitoring the City State Security Chief?!

Pang Dabing laughed. “How is this possible?”

Pang Dabing knows Liu Gang is timid and will never dare to follow anyone from the State Security.

The Third Division Chief continued. “Impossible? Are you refusing to admit it? Fine! Look at these!”

All the evidence is placed in front of Pang Dabing.

The monitor played the tailing footage.

Xu Yan’s photographs are in Liu Gang’s camera.

If Pang Dabing had not received Liu Gang’s call, he would be convinced Liu Gang was caught tailing someone. But Liu Gang had told him he was following Dong Xuebing and a woman. He should be trying to get evidence of Dong Xuebing’s affair with that woman.

That stupid Liu Gang had fallen into a trap set up by Dong Xuebing and the State Security!

This is a setup from the start.

Pang Dabing immediately realized what was going on, and his face changed. They can never clear their names if the other party insists on going after them with the evidence. There’s no way to argue even if they have a hundred mouths.

Chapter 645: Double Dismissal

Dong Xuebing sip on a cup of Long Jing Tea while waiting for Xu Yan’s call. A while later, she called.

“Hello, Sister Xu. How is it?”

“They are in our custody now.”

“Haha... Thank you. I....”

“What’s there to thank? I will settle the rest.”

“Is it too much to label them as spies? The evidence we have is....”

“I will lock them up for a few days for investigation first.”

“Oh, sorry for the troubles. I will give you a treat tomorrow.”

After hanging up, Dong Xuebing finishes his tea. He understood Sister Xu. They can’t charge Pang Dabing and his Liu Gang for espionage because it was a trap set by Xu Yan and him. He also believes they are not involved in any spying activities. But he has the upper hand now. They are caught for tailing Xu Yan, and it’s normal for them to be locked up for weeks for investigation. After a few months of torture, they will be handed to the Public Security to be charged with following and monitoring Government Leaders.

What goes around comes around.

Setting up Liu Gang and Pang Dabing is just the beginning. Dong Xuebing’s purpose is not to warn them and wait for their revenge after being released. He is going to ruin his reputation and career and not allow them to make any comebacks.

Dong Xuebing found Nan Qi Morning Post’s Chief Dong Haitao’s number and called him.

“Hello, who’s that?”

“I am Guang Ming Subdistrict Office Dong Xuebing.”

“Oh, it’s Director Dong.”

Before Dong Haitao could continue talking, Dong Xuebing started scolding. “Chief Dong, what is your newspaper agency doing? Did I snatch your wife or kill your son? Why is your newspaper agency keep trying to frame me?! Ah?! What’s the meaning of this? I kept quiet the first time as I gave you all the benefit of the doubt. You all might not know what happened and wrote that bias report. But it is too much this time. You all accused me of beating up others, causing fractures? Who is the person who has broken bones?! Show me! I ignored you all, but you all still try to push your luck! Why did your agency send Pang Dabing and Liu Gang to follow and monitor me?! Don’t you know this is against the law? Who gave you all this authority? If it wasn’t for the State Security informing me, I still don’t know you all are so bold.”

Dong Haitao tried to explain. “Director Dong, this might be a misunderstanding.”

“Fine. This calls for an investigation to see if it is a misunderstanding.” Dong Xuebing hung up.

Nan Qi Morning Post Agency.

Dong Haitao is under immersed pressure after hanging up. He can still suppress and cover up if Liu Gang follows a Government Leader. But it seems the State Security was involved. Both of them were arrested, and their apartments and offices were sealed. Until now, he still doesn't know what actually happens.

Dong Haitao could not wait any longer. He quickly called his contacts and asked them to check with the City State Security for information. He needs to know what Pang Dabing and Liu Gang did.

Dong Haitao's contact revealed some information because he is the Chief Director of Nan Qi Morning Post. Pang Dabing and Liu Gang are arrested because they are suspected spies.

Spies?!

Dong Haitao broke out in cold sweat. He is not involved in the news article about Dong Xuebing and doesn't know what Pang Dabing and Liu Gang did. But he cursed Pang Dabing and Liu Gang countless times in his heart when he heard they tailed the City State Security Chief. How will he keep his position if one of his higher management staff and a reporter are spies? He will be implicated, and the State Security might also do something to the news agency.

Damn!

How did I get implicated in such bullshit?

Dong Haitao could not sit still and call for an emergency meeting.

Ten minutes later. A small meeting room in the agency.

Dong Haitao looked at all the newspaper agency higher management staff and said. "I am sharing a piece of information with you all. Our agency's Pang Dabing and Liu Gang are suspected of leaking information overseas using their authority. They had been taken away by the State Security.

Everyone is taken aback.

One of them asked. "Chief, is this information reliable?"

Dong Haitao continued. "They are only being suspected, and the authorities might not have concrete evidence. But they had tailed and monitored the City State Security Chief Xu, and Guang Ming Subdistrict Office Director Dong. This had been confirmed."

"Why did Pang Dabing do this?"

"Chief, will our agency be implicated?"

Dong Haitao kept quiet. The agency and everyone in the meeting will be implicated if Pang Dabing and Liu Gang are found guilty. "Let's discuss what we are going to do."

No one said a word.

Dong Haitao looked at a man on his left. "Old Zhou, what do you think?"

Chief Editor Old Zhou thought for a while and said. "Although the investigation is not over, our agency must show our stand by implementing some punishment quickly. I suggest double dismissals for Liu Gang. Regardless of the investigation outcome, Liu Gang had tailed and monitored a State Security Leader. This is unforgivable." Liu Gang is a nobody, and no one cares about him. Old Zhou paused for a second. "As for Editor Pang.... Suspend his duties first and

dismiss him later.” The newspaper agency cannot dismiss them as spies as the investigation is not over. But they can fire them for following a Government Leader.

This is what Dong Haitao wanted to hear. “Alright. We shall do this. What do you all think?”

No one opposed. Even those who are close with Pang Dabing kept quiet. They might be implicated if they try to speak up for him. Suspected spy charges are not a joke. Who knows if the State Security might go after them?

This proposal was approved quickly.

Nan Qi Morning Post’s top leaders know they must draw the line between Pang Dabing and Liu Gang and them. Even if they are found not to be spies after the investigation, the newspaper agency will not take them back. Who knows what they might do in the future? They are the ones who created this mess, and they have to take responsibility.

Translator’s notes: Double Dismissal is a jargon used in China. It means a civil servant getting dismissed from his duties and the Party.

Chapter 646: I am waiting

The wind started. It is a gentle breeze.

Dong Xuebing drove to the City State Security Office. He was involved in this afternoon’s incident, and he needs to give his statement to the State Security.

A Third Division staff escorted Dong Xuebing into the building after he had identified himself at the guardhouse. He was brought into a small room to give his statement. This is a formality, and he knows what to say. His version of the account is in line with Xu Yan. They had met this afternoon, but he did not board her car. He claimed he was unaware Liu Gang had switched from following him to Xu Yan. This staff is doing his job and doesn’t know what is happening. But he knew Dong Xuebing was their Chief’s former subordinate, and he had worked in the State Security before.

The questioning ended after a few minutes.

Dong Xuebing asked. “Comrade, are Liu Gang and Pang Dabing locked up here?”

“Yes. They are being interrogated now.” The Third Division Staff nodded.

“Oh....” Dong Xuebing continues. “Can I meet them? I want to know they only want to follow me or do they have other motives.”

The staff hesitated. “Err.... I need to seek approval from the higher-ups.”

“Ok. Sorry to bother you.”

“Please wait here.”

“Can I smoke here?”

“Yes.” The Third Division staff walked out of the room.

Dong Xuebing took out a cigarette and lit it. His phone rang. It’s a landline number, and he answered. “Hello, I’m Dong Xuebing.”

“Director Dong. I’m Nan Qi Morning Post’s Dong Haitao. We spoke over the phone earlier.”

“Oh, Chief Dong. What is it?”

“We had asked around, and the State Security confirmed Pang Dabing and Liu Gang’s following incident, and I had seen the evidence. I am sorry about this incident, and I represent Nan Qi Morning Post to apologize to you. We would have stopped them if we knew what they were doing. After a discussion, we had decided to dismiss Liu Gang and Pang Dabing with immediate effect. Liu Gang will also be dismissed as a party member. We had submitted this decision to the higher-ups.” Dong Haitao sincerely said.

One of them is double dismissed, and the other is dismissed from his position. The agency is quite fast.

Dong Xuebing nodded. “I agree with your agency’s decision. Such people should be dismissed earlier as they will tarnish journalists’ reputations. Oh, what are you all going to do with this morning’s article?”

Dong Haitao paused for a second. “The article had been published. We will form an investigation team to verify that article. If the article is proven to be false, we will implement necessary measures to rectify it and publish an apology.”

“Ok.”

Dong Xuebing is quite satisfied with Nan Qi Morning Post’s decision, and he knows Pang Dabing and Liu Gang are the culprits. He knows Dong Haitao and other higher management staff might be involved, as they are the ones approving this article. But they should not be involved in the tailing incident. He decided to let them off as they had learned a lesson.

The Third Division staff returns before Dong Xuebing can finish his cigarette.

Dong Xuebing snubbed the cigarette. “How is it?”

The staff nodded. “Our Chief asked me to bring you over. Do you want to meet Pang Dabing first or Liu Gang?”

Dong Xuebing thought for a while. “Liu Gang. Thank you.”

Interrogation room.

Liu Gang is waiting in the room with a gloomy expression.

The Third Division staff brought Dong Xuebing into the room and said. “Director Dong, we will be waiting outside. Call us if there’s an emergency.” The staff doesn’t know about Dong Xuebing’s capabilities and is afraid Liu Gang might do anything to harm him.

Dong Xuebing replied. “Alright. Thank you.”

The door closed, and only Dong Xuebing and Liu Gang were in the room.

Liu Gang can see Dong Xuebing's close relationship with the City State Security Bureau. The State Security will not entertain such request even if it is a Bureau Director rank official, let alone a Section Chief. This department is very independent, and most Government rules don't apply to them. He thought for a while and stared at Dong Xuebing. "When can I leave?"

Dong Xuebing replied emotionlessly. "This will depend on when you are going to spill everything."

Liu Gang is furious. "I had answered everything I know! Dong Xuebing! Don't be too much! You should know if I had purposely followed the State Security Chief!"

Dong Xuebing sneered. "You are the one who had crossed the line. Who was it that wanted to accuse me in my office this morning? Ah? I had not done anything to you, and you kept trying to frame me and makeup stories about me. I tried to ignore you, but you kept stepping all over me. Do you think I am a pushover? You are the one who wanted to follow me! Go on.... Continue to tarnish my reputation with your articles!" He had asked to meet Liu Gang is to mock him.

Liu Gang is furious, and the veins on his temples are popping.

"Oh, I had forgotten to tell you." Dong Xuebing slowly continues. "Your Chief Dong had just called to tell me about your punishment. You are double dismissed. You are no longer a reporter with Nan Qi Morning Post from today onwards. If you are planning on continuing to tarnish my reputation, you have to do it with another newspaper agency."

Liu Gang's face changed. "Double Dismissal?!"

"Yes. You are right."

"Why?!" Liu Gang shouted. "How can you do that to me?!"

Dong Xuebing laughed. "I wonder if you had forgotten the consequences of following a Government Leader and monitoring a State Security Chief because you are had been doing it all this while. What's there to be surprised with this punishment?"

Liu Gang slumped into the chair, panting.

Liu Gang was brought away after a while, and Pang Dabing was escorted into the room.

Dong Xuebing looks at the man in front of him. "So, you are Pang Dabing."

Pang Dabing sat down slowly and did not reply.

"This is our first meeting, but I had heard of you."

"....." Pang Dabing kept quiet.

Dong Xuebing laughed. "Chief Pang, I am puzzled. You are a journalist, and you should stick to what you should do. Why are you keep trying to frame me? Oh, I shouldn't be addressing you as Chief Editor Pang now. I heard you are dismissed from your news agency."

Pang Dabing's reaction is different from Liu Gang's, and he seems to have expected it. He knows he had failed and had not thought of escaping without punishment.

“I want to know....” Dong Xuebing looks at Pang Dabing. “Who asked you to frame me?”

Pang Dabing looks at Dong Xuebing. “Where will we get articles to write about if we don’t conduct any investigations? How can you claim someone is trying to frame you? You think too highly of yourself.”

Dong Xuebing laughed. “That means you are the one who instigated Liu Gang?”

Pang Dabing let out a ‘hmp’ and looked away.

“Oh, you are trying to be noble by taking full responsibility for this incident.”

Pang Dabing is not being noble. He sees things clearer than Liu Gang and knows there’s no way to escape now. Liu Gang is stupid for spilling his name after being scared. But he cannot spill other names. This incident must end with him. If he gave other names, this incident would escalate, and the Provincial or the City Government might get involved. When this happens, he will be killing his final slim chance of making a comeback. That’s why he cannot reveal anything else.

Pang Dabing knows it’s almost impossible for him to return to any newspaper agency after being fired from Nan Qi Morning Post. Even if he is proven innocent, his records will be tarnished, and no newspaper agency will accept him.

Pang Dabing is in this plight because he was told to target Dong Xuebing. He thought about this and wondered if it was worth it.

Pang Dabing regretted targeting Dong Xuebing, but he hated the latter more. He worked in Nan Shan District for years, established connections, and was confident of bringing Dong Xuebing down. But Dong Xuebing defeated him with one move. This guy pretended to be a pushover and had never exposed his relationship with the City State Security Chief.

Pang Dabing had lost his job and had nothing to worry about. He stares at Dong Xuebing. “You might not know about this. The Nan Shan District Commission for Discipline Inspection started investigating the Yan Tai First Middle School incident. Dong Xuebing! Someone will deal with you.”

Dong Xuebing knew this would happen. The biggest culprit behind Pang Dabing should be the District Organization Department Chief, Xue Qingrong.

Dong Xuebing is amused. “You might not understand me. I have never been afraid of anyone. If anyone wants to deal with me, go ahead.” He stood up and patted Pang Dabing’s shoulder. “If you can get out of here, tell that person behind you that I am waiting.”

Chapter 647: Gold will shine eventually

Dong Xuebing returned to Guang Ming Subdistrict Office before the day ended. He parked his car and walked towards his office.

The staff is packing up, preparing to go home.

“Director.”

“Director Dong.”

A few staff members greeted Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing nodded and asked an administrative staff. “Is Secretary Qu still around?”

That staff paused for a second. “I think so. I saw the lights in his office are still switched on when I walked past earlier.”

“Ok.” Dong Xuebing replied. “Let me ask Secretary Qu to come to my office.”

“Yes. I will go now.” That staff quickly went to inform Qu Yiqiang.

Work Party Secretary office.

Qu Yiqiang knocked on the door and entered. “Director Dong.”

Dong Xuebing is taking a glass of water at the water dispenser. He turns around and smiles.

“Secretary Qu, why are you still around?”

“I still have some work to do.” Qu Yiqiang replied. “Do you need me for anything?”

Dong Xuebing nodded and gestured for him to take a seat. “I heard the District Commission for Discipline Inspection is looking into the incident reported by Nan Qi Morning Post. Is it true?”

Qu Yiqiang frowned. “I don’t know the details, but I heard about it. I thought it was a rumor.”

Most people will know the Commission for Discipline Inspection will investigate someone secretly unless it is a special situation. But both Dong Xuebing and Qu Yiqiang had heard about it now. This means someone within the Commission for Discipline Inspection Party Committee is up to something. It should not be the Commission for Discipline Inspection Party Secretary Wu. He is with Mayor Geng’s faction and has nothing to do with Wang faction’s Xue Qingrong. If Secretary Wu is targeting him, he can do it openly. The person behind should be someone close to Xue Qingrong.

Dong Xuebing decided to see how it went.

Just like what Dong Xuebing told Pang Dabing. He is not scared of anything or anyone. Since someone is targeting him, he shall wait and see.

Do you think I am afraid of you all? Go and find out who I am first!

Dong Xuebing thought nothing about it. “Secretary Qu, it’s after office hours. Go back and have a good rest. Oh....” He pulled a drawer and took out two cartons of cigarettes. “I just returned from Beijing and know you are a heavy smoker. These two cartons are for you.” These are Zhong Nan Hai cigarettes which are cheaper than the Zhong Hua brand. But these cigarettes are expensive too. Secretary Qu is on Dong Xuebing’s side, and Dong Xuebing had to be fair to him. He had previously given Zhou Yanru and Wang Yuling a few cartons of cigarettes.

Qu Yiqiang smiles. “Thank you. Zhong Nan Hai cigarettes are good. I will accept them. Next time, I will give you some local products from my hometown to try. I am sure you will like it.”

“Haha.... I am looking forward to it.”

They chatted for a while, and Qu Yiqiang left.

Zhou Yanru was about to rush into Dong Xuebing's office when she saw Qu Yiqiang closing the door. "Secretary Qu, is Director back?"

Qu Yiqiang nodded. "He just came back."

"Is... is Director alright?" Zhou Yanru lowered her voice. "I heard the District's Commission for Discipline Inspection is going.... Did he say anything?"

Qu Yiqiang smiles. "Yes."

"What did he say?" Zhou Yanru asked seriously.

"He was discussing with me about which cigarettes taste the best."

Zhou Yanru burst out laughing. Who is not afraid of the Commission for Discipline Inspection? But Director Dong still has time to talk about cigarettes after knowing he is being investigated. She had rushed here to warn him about the Commission for Discipline Inspection investigation and talked about whether Nan Qi Morning Post will continue with their reports on this incident. She decided not to meet Dong Xuebing after hearing from Qu Yiqiang.

Dong Xuebing's character is conflicting.

Director Dong is a calm person, but he does all sorts of ridiculous things on impulse.

But Director Dong can remain calm when facing any difficulties and doesn't seem fazed.

Never mind. Zhou Yanru decided not to think about this.

Zhou Yanru and Qu Yiqiang walked down the stairs together.

A few minutes later, a piece of shocking news spread throughout Nan Shan District. Almost every staff heard about it.

Liu Gang, who had written the article about Dong Xuebing beating up others, and Nan Qi Morning Post's Deputy Chief Editor Pang Dabing, were arrested by State Security. Their homes and offices were searched and sealed. The reason for their arrest is reporter Liu Gang had followed Guang Ming Subdistrict Office Director Dong Xuebing this afternoon. Halfway doing his tailing of Dong Xuebing, he switched to follow the City State Security Bureau Chief Xu for an hour. He even took pictures of Chief Xu and was arrested by the State Security Officers. Pang Dabing was brought back for investigation, and Nan Qi Morning Post's higher management decided their punishment. Liu Gang is 'double dismissed,' and Pang Dabing is fired from the agency.

The jaws of Guang Ming Subdistrict Office staff dropped when they heard this.

Nan Qi Morning Post had just published an article to tarnish Director Dong, and that reporter and his superior were arrested by the State Security and fired by the agency within hours.

This is too fast.

They are even suspected to be spies. What the hell is going on?

Zhou Yanru was stunned when she heard about this. She understands why Dong Xuebing is so calm and what he meant when he said, "I will be impressed if they dare to make any false reports tomorrow." Within a few hours, Liu Gang and his superior were locked up by the State Security and fired from the newspaper agency. Even if they are released, they can't frame Director Dong.

This is Director Dong's way of dealing with the situation.

Could it be Liu Gang had foolishly followed the wrong person? How come he can't tell the difference between a young man and a middle-aged woman?

Since Dong Xuebing came to Nan Shan District, he was involved in ridiculous incidents. He beaten up dozens of civilians, won against the neighboring Subdistrict, beaten up the Organization Department Chief's son, and created all sorts of troubles. He quickly got the nickname of "Biggest troublemaker in Nan Shan District." But this incident had escalated his status to another level. Whoever gets involved will encounter bad luck and don't have any good endings. This is no longer a troublemaker.

This guy is the God of Plagues!

Gold will shine eventually. Dong Xuebing's nickname in Yan Tai County had appeared in Nan Shan District for the first time.

Chapter 648: Younger again

Saturday.

Morning.

The warm summer breeze blows about the curtains. Dong Xuebing received a call when he woke up and was both happy and speechless at the same time. The Subdistrict Office had received the invitation and official notification for the National Respect and Care for the elderly's model unit award. Guang Ming Subdistrict is one of the winners. He also heard about his nickname again. God of Plagues. This nickname had followed him to Nan Shan District.

Brush teeth, wash face.

After washing up, Dong Xuebing sat on the sofa and called Xu Yan. "Hello, Sister Xu. I am Xiao Dong. Are you working today?"

"It's my off days today and tomorrow."

"Great. Can I treat you to lunch? You can pick the location."

"Haha.... How can I let you treat me when I am so much older than you? I will give you a treat instead."

"Please don't.... I want to thank you for your help with Nan Qi Morning Post. Please allow me to express my gratitude."

"Alright. Give me a ride to Beijing if you want to thank me. You are not working too, right?"

"Yes, it's my off day too. Are you going to Beijing for work?"

"It's been a while since I met my son. I miss him and would like to visit him."

"Ok. I will pick you up now."

"Haha.... You will be my driver today. I hope I am not troubling you."

“Don’t say that. Wait for me. I should be reached in twenty minutes.... No, I can reach in ten minutes.”

Ten minutes later, Dong Xuebing stopped his car outside the City’s State Security family quarters. He got off and looked around for Xu Yan. A beautiful woman walked out from an alley. She did not pin her hair today and had let her curly hair down. She is wearing a silver blouse and a black knee-length skirt today.

Dong Xuebing’s eyes are glued to her.

“Did you wait long?” Xu Yan smiles as she walks over.

“No. I just stopped my car.” Dong Xuebing replied and opened the door for her.

“Sister Xu, did you perm your hair?”

Xu Yan nodded and laughed. “Yes. I got it yesterday. How do I look?” She twirls her hair with her fingers.

Dong Xuebing praised. “This hairstyle suits you. You are looking fantastic.”

Xu Yan pointed at Dong Xuebing and laughed. “Stop with your flattery. Hahaha.... Let’s go.”

Xu Yan did not sit in the rear passenger seat like a Leader. Instead, she sat in the front passenger seat. Dong Xuebing sneaked a peep at her chest area as the seatbelt pressed against her. This was the first time he saw Xu Yan in casual wear. Every time he met her, she would be in her working attire. After all, she is a Leader of a Government department and needs to wear professionally. He immediately remembers the photograph of her in her thirties. If she is thirty years younger from now, she would be making heads turn wherever she goes. Dong Xuebing even falls into a daze for a second.

“Xiao Dong, Xiao Dong!” Xu Yan called.

Dong Xuebing regained his senses. “Oh.... Ah?”

Xu Yan laughed and looked at him. “What are you thinking about?”

Dong Xuebing quickly reply. “Ah.... I was thinking about Pang Dabing. How are they now?”

“They are still locked up in the Third Division for interrogation.” Xu Yan smiles. “They will be released after a few days if we cannot find anything on them. Don’t worry.”

Dong Xuebing thought for a while. “I had vented my anger. If you can’t get anything, just release them. I don’t want to create more problems for you.”

Xu Yan waved her hand. “It’s just a small matter. Locking them up for a few days is considered light punishment for them. Who asked them to frame my Godson? Let’s go.”

“Ok.” Dong Xuebing is touched and starts driving. “Where is your son?”

“He is staying somewhere near Gu Lou Da Jie. You can drop me off there and come back.”

“No. I still need to give you a treat.”

“Alright. Then go to my son’s place with me. We will have lunch together.”

“I don’t want to bother you two as it’s not easy for you to meet your son. I will hang around, and you can give me a call when you are leaving at night.”

“It’s morning now. How can I let you wait for me outside for the whole day?”

“It’s alright. I have nothing to do too.”

Xu Yan saw Dong Xuebing refuse to listen to her and helplessly smiled. “I would have driven myself if it wasn’t for the number plate restriction.” Suddenly, her phone rang, and she frowned when she saw the number. “Hello, yes.... What did you say? You are bringing my son to the Summer Palace?” Her tone turns cold. “Are you doing this on purpose? I had called you yesterday to inform you that I will be coming today. How can you bring him out today? When did I say I would be reaching at night? Never mind.... I can’t be bothered to argue with you. Let me speak to my son.” Xu Yan spoke to her son for a while and let out a loud sigh after she hung up.

Dong Xuebing kept quiet.

Xu Yan forced a smile. “Sorry, I had embarrassed myself. His father and ‘Xu Yan’ had brought him to the Summer Palace and will be back at night.”

‘Xu Yan’ is also working in State Security. Dong Xuebing had met her during a football match when he was still with Beijing State Security. After Xu Yan splits with her husband, this ‘Xu Yan’ gets married to her ex-husband. Dong Xuebing had heard rumors that they were together before the divorce. (Translator’s note: ‘Xu Yan’ has similar pronunciation but different Chinese characters.)

Dong Xuebing hesitated for a second. “Sister Xu, we are reaching Beijing. How about we wait at my house? I can send you to Gu Lou tonight or tomorrow.”

Xu Yan thought for a while and nodded. “Alright.”

Late morning.

He Ping North Street.

Dong Xuebing smiled as he opened the door. “Hope you don’t mind. It’s a small apartment. I will get you tea.”

“Thank you.” Xu Yan did not talk much as she sat on the sofa as she was feeling down.

Dong Xuebing noticed Xu Yan is beautiful in a different way when she is in a bad mood. But he decided to cheer her up after pouring a cup of tea for her. “Oh, how was the facial massage I gave you previously? Is it effective? Did you feel any discomfort after that?”

Xu Yan looks up with a smile. “I thought the age spots and wrinkles are only gone temporarily. The effect is still holding up after so many days. The wrinkles did not appear again. Thank you so much. Your massage technique is amazing. I had searched online, and such techniques do exist. But they need to combine massage and herbs in the treatment, and the effects will drop as time goes by.

Those techniques are also not as effective as yours. Why is your technique so effective and different?"

"It is stimulating the cells through the massage. The wrinkles will be gone when our muscle cells are stimulated and regain their activeness. Of course, the effect will vary on individuals. It's also because this treatment suits your body. I had tried this massage on others since I learned it, but it doesn't work on them."

Xu Yan laughed. "I am quite lucky."

Dong Xuebing sat on the sofa. "How about I give you another massage?"

"Oh, didn't you say I got to wait for a while before the next massage?"

"It's about time. I am unsure too. Let's try."

"Ok." Xu Yan cheered up and looked at Dong Xuebing gently. "Thank you."

Dong Xuebing laughed. "Don't mention it. I am also trying to improve my skills on you."

Xu Yan laughed. "Ok. Let me be your test subject. I won't mind even if you destroy my face."

"Huh? Even if it is not effective, there are no side-effects."

Dong Xuebing doesn't know if REVERSE has any limits. He is trying to help Sister Xu regain her youth and see if he can let her return to her thirties. If he succeeds, he will gain a better understanding of this power. It will be helpful to him in the future.

Xu Yan went to the bathroom to remove her make-up.

Dong Xuebing shook and relaxed his wrists while checking his MENU. He had accumulated more than seven minutes over the past few days.

Xu Yan walked out of the bathroom and sat on the sofa.

"Close your eyes."

"Ok."

"I am starting now."

"Go ahead."

Dong Xuebing moved a chair in front of Xu Yan and started massaging her face like the last time. He pressed on her temples, Feng Chi acupoint, etc.

Half an hour passed.

Dong Xuebing felt it was about time and concentrated while saying REVERSE in his heart. This time, he focuses on Xu Yan's face, arms, thighs, and whole body.

"Ah...." Xu Yan mumbled. "It's the same numbing feeling like the previous time."

"Stop talking... it will be over soon."

One minute....

Two minutes....

Three minutes....

One minute of REVERSE is equivalent to around two months, and Dong Xuebing doesn't dare to REVERSE Xu Yan too far back. It will be too unbelievable. He stopped after three minutes. This is already making her younger by six months.

REVERSE deactivated.

Dong Xuebing puts down his hands and looks at Xu Yan. "I am taking a break now and will continue later. You can check the effect in the mirror."

Xu Yan took out a mirror and smiled. "Wow.... Although it's not obvious, I feel slightly younger. My eyebags.... My eyebags are not so obvious now."

Chapter 649: Works on the body too

Beijing, Dong Xuebing's apartment.

How much difference can six months show? If someone looks at himself in the mirror for the past six months, he will not notice any notable changes on his face. This is why Xu Yan didn't see any big changes in her face. She can only see her eye bags slightly smaller. This is the effect Dong Xuebing wanted as he can't explain if there are drastic changes. Even the latest beauty products are not as effective as his powers.

Huh... wait a minute.

Dong Xuebing suddenly remembered he had used REVERSE on Xu Yan's face and body. Her body will also regain her youth, and it is not noticeable. If this carries on, she will surely notice her body's changes. He had massaged her face, and how was he going to explain the changes in her body?

Dong Xuebing's powers might be exposed when Xu Yan bathes.

Tsk.... I had overlooked this. What should I do?

Xu Yan smiles. "Xiao Dong, you must be tired. Let's stop here. You are sweating already."

Dong Xuebing replied. "It's fine."

"Come here." Xu Yan asked Dong Xuebing to come closer and hold his hand. "Let me massage your hands."

Dong Xuebing smiled and did not reject her. His hands are aching.

Xu Yan pressed his hands and said. "You are so capable at your age. If I have a daughter, I will surely make you my son-in-law."

Xu Yan had said this more than once, and Dong Xuebing was speechless. He is still thinking about covering up his lies and glances at her long legs under the black stockings. Her thighs seem to be shapelier than before. He also noticed the slight changes in her arms. Overall, he felt her complexion had improved, and he must do something before she noticed it.

Dong Xuebing felt Xu Yan's warm hands on his palms and got an idea."

“Sister Xu, I need to tell you something.”

Xu Yan laughed. “What is it?”

Dong Xuebing organized his thoughts and said. “Based on the message’s effectiveness on your face, I think it would work on other parts of your body.”

Xu Yan paused for a second. “Other parts?”

“Err.... Your body?”

“It will work on my body too?” Xu Yan got excited. “Really?”

Dong Xuebing nodded. “I think so. I had learned acupoint massage of the whole body, and I think it will be effective. It should help your muscles and skin regain elasticity. If possible, I would also like to massage the other acupoints on your body.”

Xu Yan looks at Dong Xuebing. “Oh....”

Dong Xuebing felt his face turns red and was afraid Xu Yan would think he was trying to take advantage of her. He quickly explains. “I am only thinking to try it and see the results. It’s fine if you are not willing. I can continue to massage your face.”

Xu Yan thought for a while and asked. “Can this really work on my body?”

“Yes.” Dong Xuebing replied.

It’s not only the face that would age. The body will also age. Some movie stars in their forties and fifties look like they are in their thirties and are still pretty and attractive. But those are because of their makeup. Their bodies cannot hide their age. Women’s skin in their forties is loose and rough compared to when they are younger. These cannot be covered with makeup.

Xu Yan smiles and looks at Dong Xuebing. “Then I shall continue to trouble you since you are so capable. I am very greedy and can’t wait for you to turn me 18 years old. Haha.... Go ahead. But... do I need to take off my clothes?”

Dong Xuebing's face got redder. “No need.”

“Good. Hmmm.... Rest a while first.”

“I’m fine now. Let’s start.”

“Ok.”

Dong Xuebing is not calm and started the massage on Xu Yan’s face, scalp, ears, etc. About ten minutes later, he massaged her arms, starting from her shoulders. After that, he walked behind the sofa and started on her back.

Xu Yan’s blouse material is smooth and feels good to touch. It’s not easier to put strength into the massage through such material. But Dong Xuebing was only putting an act. Suddenly, he felt something on her back. It’s her bra strap. He blushed and quickly moved his hands away.

Xu Yan closed her eyes and enjoyed the massage. “Where are we going for lunch?”

Dong Xuebing replied while massaging her. "Let's eat at home. I will buy some groceries in a while."

"Let's eat out. I will buy you lunch."

"Hey, I said I will treat you to lunch."

"What's the difference between who is paying?"

"No. How can I let you pay when you are in Beijing? I am the host."

"Did you forget? Haha.... Both two generations of ancestors are from Beijing."

"Huh? I forgot about it, but I am still paying."

After massaging Xu Yan's back, Dong Xuebing started on her waist and moved his stool in front of her. He looks at her legs and doesn't know how to start.

Xu Yan looks at Dong Xuebing. "Are you going to massage my legs now?"

Dong Xuebing nodded. "Err...."

Xu Yan thought nothing and is not shy about this. After all, she is in her forties and has a son. She sat up and lifted one leg. "How should I place it?"

Dong Xuebing replied. "You can place it on my legs."

"Ok." Xu Yan placed her leg lightly on Dong Xuebing's knees.

Dong Xuebing looked at Xu Yan's leg and took a deep breath before placing his hands on her feet to start the massage.

Xu Yan inhaled and looked like she was enjoying it. "Everyone is talking about paying attention to health, and I go for foot massages whenever I am free. Your massage feels quite similar to them."

Dong Xuebing came up with an excuse. "It might feel the same, but there's a big difference. Many acupoints are different, and it must be pressed in a certain sequence for it to be effective."

"Oh, I see."

"Is it painful for you?"

"No. The strength is just right."

After pressing one foot, Dong Xuebing started on the other foot. After that, it's her calves. Compared to massaging the back, face, feet, the legs of a woman are more sensitive. He kept observing Xu Yan's expression. Her eyes were still close when his hands started moving upwards. Soft....

Dong Xuebing's felt the softness on Xu Yan's legs.

Xu Yan's leg muscles are not as elastic as Xie Huilan and Qu Yunxuan's, but it still feels good to touch. Especially pressing her legs through the black stockings. Dong Xuebing pressed a few acupoints on the calves and started moving up to the thighs. The thighs felt better, and it made his heart beats faster.

Xu Yan started to sweat after so long, and Dong Xuebing could smell the 'scent' of a mature woman from her.

"It's quite warm." Dong Xuebing tried to start a conversation to mask his embarrassment.

"Yes. It's quite warm." Xu Yan opened her eyes and looked at Dong Xuebing's hands on her thighs. But she did not say anything and closed her eyes.

Dong Xuebing felt it was about time.

REVERSE!

Xu Yan's brows twitched and felt some changes.

One minute....

Two minutes....

Three minutes....

REVERSE deactivated.

Dong Xuebing removed his hands from Xu Yan's warm thighs unwillingly. "Alright. You can take a look in the mirror and feel the difference."

"Ok." Xu Yan stood up and adjusted her stockings.

This and the earlier REVERSE had reversed Xu Yan's body to two years before. She is no longer in her forties. Her body age should be in her late thirties. This change is not great, but it is still noticeable.

When Xu Yan touched her arms, she had an astonished look. She immediately touched her thighs and looked into the mirror. The corners of her lips curled up.

Chapter 650: Let me continue

Dong Xuebing's apartment.

The weather was too warm outside, and they did not go out for lunch. Instead, they ordered delivery from a restaurant.

"I said I will pay for lunch. Why did you snatch the bill?" Xu Yan said.

"Ah.... It's the same as whoever is paying. Also, it doesn't cost much."

"You ah.... Sit down."

"Yes... let's eat. Sister Xu, please start."

"Let me offer you a toast first. You are not driving this afternoon, right? Bottoms up!"

"Please stop. You are older than me. I should be the one offering you this toast."

"No. I must offer a toast for our first glass. Hurry up."

"Err.... Alright."

After lunch, Dong Xuebing cleared the table. He increased the wind speed of the air conditioner before going into the kitchen to wash the dishes. After cleaning up, he walked out of the kitchen and saw Xu Yan touching her arms gently. She seems to be feeling the changes in her skin through her fingers.

Xu Yan saw Dong Xuebing and smiled. "I still can't believe it. I feel younger by a year."

Dong Xuebing laughed. "I also didn't expect it to be so effective."

"This can be described as a miracle."

"Haha.... It's good you feel this way. This means I did not learn this skill in vain."

"The doctor who taught you might be a miracle doctor."

"I think so too."

Dong Xuebing had used REVERSE to make Xu Yan younger by two years. Two years is not short. Most of the wrinkles had faded, and her eye bags were almost gone. Her face is flowing and is not as dry as before. She is showing signs that she was a great beauty in her early thirties now.

Xu Yan was around 35 in the photograph Dong Xuebing seen, and she is not far from it now.

Dong Xuebing had to admit he was shocked by her beauty when she was younger.

Afternoon.

Both had nothing to do, and they watched TV in the living room.

The living room starts to get warmer. It is summer, and the temperature outside is too high. The air-conditioner is over a decade old and is not powerful enough to cool the room. Dong Xuebing waved his t-shirt and noticed Xu Yan's legs were glistening in sweat. Her back is wet from her sweat, making her bra strap visible. She had also unbuttoned a button, exposing the top of her chest area. A droplet of sweat trickled down into the blouse.

Dong Xuebing quickly gave Xu Yan a clean towel. "I'm sorry. The air-conditioner is not working properly."

Xu Yan smiled and waved it off. "I am getting older and am afraid of warm weather. Hmmm.... do you have chess at home? It can divert my attention on the weather."

"Huh? I have not been living here for a while. I will go downstairs to buy a chess set."

"It's fine if you don't have it."

Dong Xuebing thought for a while and asked. "How about I continue with the massage?"

"Didn't you say continuous massage is not effective?"

"It will not be effective, but at least it can strengthen the effects."

"Never mind. You had massaged me the whole morning, and you should be tired."

"I'm not tired. Anyway, we got nothing to do now." Dong Xuebing rolled up his sleeves and shook his hands.

Xu Yan thought for a second and sat up on the sofa. "I shall trouble you a while more. Oh, let me remove my stockings first. It's too warm." She went to the bathroom and came out after two minutes. She removed her stockings and hung them on a hanger by the bathroom mirror. Her slender legs are exposed. "Alright. Should I sit on the sofa?"

Dong Xuebing replied. "Whichever you are comfortable. You can lie on the sofa."

"Ok." Xu Yan nodded and removed her heels before lying down on the sofa. "Just massage for a while will do. I don't want you to be tired."

Dong Xuebing smiled and moved a stool closer to start massaging her scalp.

Xu Yan laughed. "Ah... it feels so good. Oh, is your problem settled?"

"Do you mean that article about me beating up others?"

"Did it affect you?"

Dong Xuebing smiles. "It's already published. What else can I do? There will be some impact, but I am not sure how great is it. I heard our District's Commission for Discipline Inspection is investigating this incident."

Xu Yan frowned. "This is worrisome. Someone is after you."

"Yes. I shall see what they can do to me. I am not afraid of anyone. Huh.... of course, you are the exception."

Xu Yan laughed. "You even dare to embarrass Chief Zeng when you are in the State Security. Do you think I will believe you?"

Dong Xuebing quickly explain. "I am really scared of you. My heart will skip a beat when you give me a stare." He thought in his heart. If you take off your clothes, my heart will skip more than a beat.

"Stop talking nonsenses." Xu Yan laughed and looked at him. "It will be troublesome if your District's Commission for Discipline Inspection is after you. Furthermore, you did beat up someone, regardless of the reason." Dong Xuebing tried to retort, but she stopped him. "Regardless of the reason, this will affect you as a Civil Servant. You are already a Section Chief now, and why are you still the same?"

Dong Xuebing smiled embarrassedly. "You are right."

After massaging the scalp and face, Dong Xuebing started working on Xu Yan's shoulders. But because she is lying on the sofa, he got to bend over. His face is nearer to her body, and he can smell her body scent. He can also feel her breath on his face when she exhales. As he increases his strength, her breathing becomes rapid, and their faces are inches apart.

Xu Yan closed her eyes and felt uncomfortable. She opens it again and looks at Dong Xuebing's face in front of her. "Which District Leader are you closer to now?"

Xu Yan's breath falls on Dong Xuebing's face as she speaks.

Dong Xuebing's heart is racing. "I think it should be the District Party Secretary."

Dong Xuebing's breath fell onto Xu Yan's face, and her fringe moved. He quickly closed his mouth when he saw it as he was afraid he had bad breath.

"Wang Anshi?"

Dong Xuebing nodded and continued with his massage. Sister Xu's shoulders are tensed. "Yes. I was around when Secretary Wang's appendicitis happened, and I helped relieve his pain through massage. He is still fine until today."

"Good to hear this. If the District Party Secretary is on your side, no one can touch you."

Dong Xuebing thought about it and agreed. Although Wang Anshi did not express anything, he owes Dong Xuebing a favor. He felt he should be considered half a Wang faction member and is no longer alone. This is the benefit of being in a faction. Hmmm.... I should try to be closer to Wang Anshi when I go back.

"If I had not to call you after seeing that article, are you going to handle it by yourself?"

"Huh? No...."

"Do you think I don't know what you are thinking? You like to be a hero and face everything yourself. Am I right about you?" Xu Yan has known Dong Xuebing for some time and knows him well.

Dong Xuebing's face turns red.

Xu Yan reached out and patted Dong Xuebing's leg. "Remember to call me when something happens. I might not be of any help, but checking the backgrounds of someone is not an issue."

"Thank you, Sister Xu."

"Don't mention it."

After massaging the upper part of the body, Dong Xuebing started on the lower part.

Dong Xuebing looks at Xu Yan's legs and quickly takes a few tea-sips to wet his throat. He placed his hands on her thighs, and it felt better compared to this morning. REVERSE had helped her muscles regain the tightness. He can feel the warmth through his palms, and Xu Yan has closed her eyes.

Dong Xuebing is afraid Xu Yan might not close her eyes completely, and he did not show any emotions. He continued to massage her legs with a serious look.

To be honest, it felt good to take advantage of Sister Xu openly.

Xu Yan's black skirt is crumpled and pushed up above her knees. Dong Xuebing's hands stopped at the hem of her skirt and didn't dare to move higher. He didn't dare to put his hands under her skirt to massage her inner thighs and continued to massage her legs. He can feel her sweat on his hands and her body heat emitting between her legs. He could smell her body scent and took a deep breath.

Xu Yan opened her eyes and smiled. "Are you tired?"

Dong Xuebing quickly looks away from Xu Yan's skirt. "No... I was just out of breath."

Xu Yan patted her thighs. "Your massage is making me sleepy. Let's stop before I fall asleep." She yawned.

Dong Xuebing removed his hands from her legs. "What are your plans for tonight?"

Xu Yan laughed. "I have nowhere to go. Let me stay over at your place tonight. Is it convenient?"

"Of course not. But my apartment is small. You can sleep in my room, and I will sleep on the sofa."