

PAW 691

Chapter 691: Reunite

Hospital's Accident and Emergency Department.

There are many patients and around twenty to thirty beds in the hall. The beds are close to each other, and it's quite noisy and messy. Liu Chenlong does not like the noise, and he pulls the screen curtains around the bed. Dong Xuebing saw it and pulled the curtains on the other side.

Although the curtains cannot stop the noise in the hall, they will block out the messy hall from their sight.

Liu Chenlong looks at his watch. "How about I ask the hospital to prepare a private ward for you?"

Qian Lihua shook her head. "Don't trouble yourself. We are leaving in a while."

"It's not troublesome. I met the hospital's Deputy Director Fang a few times and knew him well." Liu Chenlong replied.

Qian Lihua looked at Liu Chenlong and shook her head. "No need. I am going home after meeting Xiao Dong's friends. My injuries are not serious." Liu Chenlong nodded and held her hand.

Qian Lihua frowned and pulled her hand away.

Liu Chenlong felt embarrassed and looked towards Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing observed them and pretended not to see anything when Liu Chenlong turned his head.

"Xiao Dong." Liu Chenlong said.

"Huh?" Dong Xuebing asked. "What is it?"

"Why are you so sure that we want to meet your friends? Who are they?"

Dong Xuebing laughed. "I am very sure."

Qian Lihua asked. "Is it some old friends we know?"

Dong Xuebing thought for a second and replied. "I am not sure if you two can recognize them."

Liu Chenlong and Qian Lihua were about to continue asking Dong Xuebing when they heard loud footsteps outside. Dong Xuebing looked out from the curtains and said to them. "They are here. I will bring them over. Please wait here for a while." He said and walked out. He waved to Yu Meixia and Yu Qianqian. "Sister Yu, Qianqian, over here!"

"Mum, it's Uncle!" Yu Qianqian pointed towards Dong Xuebing and exclaimed.

Yu Meixia quickly pulled her daughter and walked towards Dong Xuebing. "Xiao Bing, I.... I.... They...." Dong Xuebing turns towards the bed, covered by the curtain screen. "They are over there. Let's go." Yu Meixia took a step and paused.

“What are you hesitating for? You are already here.” Yu Meixia thought for a while and continued walking with Yu Qianqian.

Dong Xuebing looks at Yu Meixia and Yu Qianqian before taking a deep breath and opening the curtains slowly. He pushed them in and closed the curtains.

Liu Chenlong and Qian Lihua were talking softly when they heard the sound of curtains opening. They look up at the new visitors.

Yu Meixia is biting her lower lips nervously, and Yu Qianqian hides behind her.

Their eyes met.

Yu Meixia was mentally prepared for this meeting. Her eyes teared, and she trembled when she saw Liu Chenlong and Qian Lihua.

Yu Qianqian is also looking at them nervously.

Liu Chenlong was stunned when he saw Yu Meixia.

Qian Lihua’s reaction was slower. She looked at Yu Meixia for a few seconds before her face changed to shock.

“This.... You.... you....” Liu Chenlong stood up and could almost guess it. He looked at Dong Xuebing in shock and held his shoulder. “Xiao Dong! What is going on? She.... Why is her face....? Hurry up and tell me what is going on!” The woman in front of him was the spitting image of his ex-wife when she was younger. Qian Lihua might be slower to realize this, but not Liu Chenlong. He had kept a picture of Qian Lihua during her younger days in his wallet.

Qian Lihua sat up on the bed immediately. “You.... You are....”

Yu Meixia kept quiet and hugged Qianqian.

Dong Xuebing saw Sister Yu keeping quiet and smiling. He gently pushes Liu Chenlong’s hand off his shoulder and says. “Uncle Liu, sit down first. I will explain everything.”

Liu Chenlong took a deep breath and did not sit down.

Qian Lihua reached out and held Liu Chenlong’s hand. She held his hand so tight until her nails dug into his flesh.

Liu Chenlong also held her hand tightly, and his eyes have never left Yu Meixia.

Dong Xuebing pulled a chair over for Yu Meixia, and he sat at the end of the bed. He looks at Liu Chenlong and Qian Lihua. “Let me introduce you all first.” He points at Yu Meixia. “This is Yu Meixia, and this is her daughter, Yu Qianqian. Hmm.... It’s a long story. I met Sister Yu a long time ago when working at Yan Tai County Public Security. I met her by chance and hired her to be my helper. As we got to know each other better, she told me her parents in the countryside are not her birth parents. She might be bought or picked up from the roadside by them. She was too young to remember anything, and she hopes I can help her to find her birth parents.”

Qian Lihua’s eyes turned red when she heard this.

Liu Chenlong's breathing got faster.

Dong Xuebing continued. "Maybe the gods are helping me. Uncle Liu, do you still remember our meeting in Japan? I was supposed to board my flight that day, but I did not. I even had a meal with you and asked you to help me amend my flight ticket."

Liu Chenlong replied. "Of course."

"That is because I saw Aunt Qian's photograph in your wallet when you dropped it at the counter." Qian Lihua looks at Liu Chenlong.

Liu Chenlong took out his wallet with his trembling hands and took out that old photograph.

"Yes. This is that photograph." Dong Xuebing laughed. "I think it's fated. When I saw the photograph, my first reaction was, 'that is Sister Yu.' The woman in the photograph looks exactly like her. Of course, many people look alike with each other in this world. So, I started asking about your family during our meal. You told me that you and Aunt Qian had a daughter named Dandan, and she went missing when she was five. I can almost confirm it, but I need to get Sister Yu's opinion first. We are not 100% sure, so...."

Liu Chenlong suddenly remembers something. "We had a meal together when I visited Yan Tai County, and you mentioned a friend of yours might be joining us."

Dong Xuebing nodded. "Yes. After our meal.... Err.... I.... I secretly took your glass and got someone to get your DNA specimen from it. I used your DNA and Sister Yu's DNA for a Paternity test, and the result...."

"What's the result?!" Liu Chenlong interrupted anxiously.

Qian Lihua also asked. "Hurry and tell us the result." Dong Xuebing turns to Sister Yu. "Did you bring it?"

Yu Meixia nodded and took out a piece of paper from her pocket with trembling hands.

Dong Xuebing took it and gave it to Liu Chenlong. "This is the test result. You are Sister Yu's father."

Qian Lihua's tears rolled down her cheeks. "Thank god...." Liu Chenlong looked at the result slip for a few seconds and couldn't hold back his tears. "Great!"

Yu Meixia also cried. Yu Qianqian saw her mother crying and started sobbing too.

A few moments later, Qian Lihua jumps off the bed and hugs Yu Meixia. "My daughter is finally back!"

Liu Chenlong walked over and hugged Qian Lihua and Yu Meixia in his arms. "Dandan! You must have suffered all these years. We are sorry!"

Qian Lihua cried. "Sorry.... I had made you suffer."

Yu Meixia shook her head. "It's my fault."

"Silly child."

Qian Lihua cried. "Why is it your fault? It's all our fault for not taking care of you. If we had been more careful, you would not be abducted."

Liu Chenlong wiped the tears off Yu Meixia's face. "You are finally back with us."

Yu Meixia nodded while crying. She looks at them for a while and finally says. "Mum, Dad." Liu Chenlong had been waiting for this for almost thirty years. Qian Lihua also cried. "My precious daughter...."

Yu Qianqian, who was standing beside him, was standing there in a daze. She wants to hug Yu Meixia, but Qian Lihua and Liu Chenlong hug her tightly. There's no space for Qianqian to join in. She can only stand there looking at them while wiping her tears.

Dong Xuebing quickly cleared his throat to get their attention. "Ahem!"

Liu Chenlong and Qian Lihua had finally found their long-lost daughter and didn't hear anything.

Dong Xuebing is speechless. He held Qianqian's hand and walked over. "Err.... Sorry to disturb you. Qianqian, this is your grandmother, and this is your grandfather."

Yu Qianqian shyly greeted them. "Grandma, Grandpa."

Liu Chenlong and Qian Lihua realized they had almost forgotten about their granddaughter.

"Good girl." Liu Chenlong quickly acknowledged.

Qian Lihua released her arms around Yu Meixia and hugged Yu Qianqian. She kissed her. "My precious darling...." Her family is finally reunited after almost thirty years.

Chapter 692: Reunion

Dong Xuebing and the rest left for Qian Lihua's house from the hospital. Her neighborhood is quiet as most people had returned home.

Liu Chenlong asked Yu Meixia about her life after they entered the house.

Qian Lihua hugs Yu Qianqian on the sofa, and she keeps kissing her. She likes her granddaughter a lot.

Yu Qianqian felt uneasy and is blushing. But Qian Lihua is hugging her tightly.

The family had been reunited, and Dong Xuebing became an outsider. He looks at them, chatting warmly, and they have forgotten about him. He smiled and went to the kitchen. He got a cup and fetched a cup of water before standing by the kitchen windows to smoke. He is happy for them and wants to let them chat.

"Dandan, are you thirsty?"

"No. I am not."

"This will be your home in the future. Oh, are you used to us calling you Dandan?"

"A little, but it's fine."

"You are grown up now. Your mother and I will call you Meixia from now on."

"Ok."

"I had forgotten to ask you about your husband."

"He passed away."

"What happened? Did he fall sick or what?"

Yu Meixia told them about her life, including her husband, Qianqian, and how Dong Xuebing helped them. Qian Lihua and Liu Chenlong were heartbroken after hearing her story. Their daughter had endured all sorts of hardships since they were separated. They sighed and told her how hard they searched for her and why they divorced.

Half an hour later.

The family is still chatting.

"Oh, where's Xiao Dong?" Liu Chenlong suddenly remembers Dong Xuebing. He looks around. "Xiao Dong.... Xiao Dong...."

Qian Lihua slaps her lap lightly. "Ah, I was so happy that I had forgotten to get a drink for Xiao Dong. Xiao Dong!"

"I'm here." Dong Xuebing heard them and threw his cigarette butt out of the window before walking out. He thought to himself. You all finally remember about me.

Qian Lihua stood up and apologized. "Sorry, Xiao Dong. I had forgotten about you."

Dong Xuebing laughed. "It's alright. I was smoking in the kitchen."

Liu Chenlong went over and patted Dong Xuebing's shoulders. He pulled him to a chair. "Sit. I will make tea for you."

"Uncle Liu, I can make it myself."

"We get to meet Meixia again because of you." Liu Chenlong squeezed Dong Xuebing's arm. "If you had not helped Meixia and Qianqian when they are begging on the streets, we might not know what will happen to them. Meixia had told us you gave her a job and helped Qianqian return to school. You had been taking care of them the past two years."

Qian Lihua added. "If you had not saved me today, I would have been killed by that car and will not get to see my daughter and granddaughter again. Xiao Dong, thank you very much."

"That's right." Liu Chenlong patted Dong Xuebing's shoulder. "No words can describe how grateful we are."

Dong Xuebing smiles. "I had not done much. It all happened coincidentally. Maybe it's fated for me to meet them and help your family reunite. My mission is completed. Hahaha...."

Qian Lihua suddenly says. "Oh, my daughter had borrowed money from you." She took out her wallet and took out a bank card. "There's 200,000 inside. The pin is....."

Liu Chenlong stopped his ex-wife immediately. "I will return the money. Stay out of this."

Qian Lihua pushed her ex-husband's hand away. "Let me pay for it. You are earning so little."

Liu Chenlong and Qian Lihua's positions are about the same. A few decades ago, they would be holding the same rank and getting the same salary under the government. Their ranks might be the same now, but their salaries are different. The head of the City's ICBC is earning a lot more than the City's Power Company's General Manager.

Liu Chenlong is unhappy, and he frowns. "This is not about how much we earn. She is my daughter."

"She is also my daughter." Qian Lihua rolled her eyes. "Can you stop fighting with me in front of our daughter?"

"I don't want to argue with you. I will return this sum of money."

"Liu Chenlong, are you done?!"

"What do you mean?!"

All couples will fight, let alone a divorced couple. Both of them started quarreling over a small disagreement.

Dong Xuebing smiled helplessly as he could not stop them.

Yu Meixia panicked and wanted to stop her parent's argument. But she doesn't know what to say. After all, they had only met for around one hour.

It was Yu Qianqian who managed to stop them. She saw her grandparents arguing, and her tears started flowing. "You all.... Stop fighting...."

Liu Chenlong saw her precious granddaughter crying and quickly consoled her. "Don't cry, Qianqian. I will stop arguing with your grandmother now."

Qian Lihua went over and hugged Qianqian. She kissed her forehead. "Don't cry, my precious baby. We are only joking and not fighting."

Liu Chenlong laughed. "That's right. We are only joking."

Yu Qianqian sniffled and nodded.

Qian Lihua pinched Yu Qianqian's nose lightly. "You are the same as your mother when she is young. She will start crying whenever your grandfather argues with me. Haha...."

Liu Chenlong recalled those times and smiled.

Yu Meixia blushed and felt embarrassed.

"Ok, you will return the money." Liu Chenlong looks at his ex-wife.

Qian Lihua glanced at Liu Chenlong and nodded. She pushed the bank card to Dong Xuebing. "Xiao Dong, keep this card. If you find it troublesome, tell me your account number, and I will transfer the money tomorrow."

Dong Xuebing did not accept it. "Aunt Qian, let's not talk about this."

"Just take it." Qian Lihua pushed the card into Dong Xuebing's hand.

“I helped Sister Yu is because I treated her as a friend. I was there when she had difficulties, and I had to help her. I had never wanted her to return the money. Furthermore, you should know I don’t need this sum of money. Please keep it.”

Qian Lihua knew Dong Xuebing was wealthy as he had driven her back in his Cayenne. “This is not about how wealthy you are. We must return this sum of money to you.”

“You don’t need to return it.”

Qian Lihua refused. “You got to take it.”

“That’s right. Xiao Dong, you must accept it.” Liu Chenlong added.

Dong Xuebing simply refused to accept it, but Qian Lihua and Liu Chenlong insisted.

In the end, Yu Meixia said something to stop them. “Mum, Dad, I will work and repay Xiao Bing slowly in the future. I cannot use your money.”

Dong Xuebing laughed. “See.... Sister Yu says she will return the money slowly in the future.”

Qian Lihua and Liu Chenlong finally stopped insisting.

Suddenly, Yu Qianqian yawned and rubbed her eyes. “Mum, I’m sleepy.”

Qian Lihua immediately says. “You all had rushed over from Yan Tai County and must be tired. Let’s go to bed, and we will continue chatting tomorrow.”

Yu Meixia asked. “Then we....”

“Just stay at my place.” Qian Lihua smiles and holds Yu Meixia and Yu Qianqian’s hands towards the bedroom. “Let’s tidy up the room. I want to hug you to sleep tonight. Hmmm.... I had forgotten you are no longer five years old. The bed is not big enough. Hahaha.... Alright. You and Qianqian will sleep in the guest room. I will not join you all.”

Yu Meixia paused for a second and looked at Dong Xuebing. “Xiao Bing, we are going to stay here tonight.” She relies on Dong Xuebing a lot and will seek his opinions for everything.

Dong Xuebing is speechless. Damn! Why are you asking me this now? Your parents are beside you, and they might get the wrong idea. He immediately explains to Liu Chenlong and Qian Lihua. “I had booked a hotel for Sister Yu tonight as I was afraid they don’t have a place to stay. I will cancel the booking.” This tells them the reason why Yu Meixia is asking his opinion.

Liu Chenlong nodded. “How can she stay at the hotel when they are home?”

Qian Lihua agreed. “Meixia, I will accompany you back to Yan Tai County tomorrow to get your belongings. Both of you will live with me in the future.”

Yu Meixia nodded.

Liu Chenlong suddenly remembers something. “Lihua.... What about me?”

Qian Lihua glanced at him and did not reply.

The apartment only has two rooms. Yu Meixia and Yu Qianqian will be staying in one room, and Qian Lihua will be staying in the other room. There's no more room for Liu Chenlong. Her sofa in the living is also not suitable for sleeping. Liu Chenlong sighed when he saw his ex-wife not replying. "Alright.... Go to bed. I will come back tomorrow morning." He doesn't want to leave as he finally finds his long-lost daughter. But he got no choice as they had been divorced for many years.

Dong Xuebing blinked. "I will be going off too. Uncle Liu, I will walk you down."

Liu Chenlong nodded and looked at Yu Meixia and Yu Qianqian before reluctantly walking towards the door. "Let's go."

Qian Lihua, who was giving Qianqian a new toothbrush in the bathroom, looks out and says. "I will not stop you if you want to go back."

"Huh?" Liu Chenlong stopped. "Are you allowing me to stay?"

Qian Lihua replied without looking at him. "You better be prepared. If you still snore like how you did in the past, I will kick you off the bed."

Yu Meixia and Yu Qianqian laughed.

Liu Chenlong is overjoyed, and he quickly walks back into the apartment.

Dong Xuebing is also happy for them.

Chapter 693: Research on FORWARD

The sun rises early during the summer, and it's up before 6 am.

Dong Xuebing woke up and rubbed his eyes. He immediately got off his bed and went to wash up. Yu Meixia and Yu Qianqian had stayed at Qian Lihua's apartment yesterday, and it seems they will be staying there for a while. He didn't want to disturb their family reunion and did not call them. He prepared a simple breakfast for himself and looked at the time. It's still early for work, and he looks out from his living room windows.

Yu Meixia called.

Dong Xuebing answered and heard Sister Yu say in a soft voice. "Xiao Bing, it's me. Are you awake?"

"Yes. Where are you now?"

"I'm at my mother's apartment."

"Where are they?"

"They are still sleeping."

Dong Xuebing smiles. Liu Chenlong and Qian Lihua had been divorced for years, and both of them are not attached. He can guess what they had been doing last night. He wants to ask if Sister Yu had heard anything last night, but they are her parents, and it's too embarrassing to ask.

"How do you feel?"

Yu Meixia replied. "My Mum wants Qianqian and me to live with her. I want to ask you for your opinions."

Dong Xuebing replied. "Why are you asking me this? You can decide for yourself."

"Qianqian likes your grandmother a lot, and I think I will be living with her."

"Haha.... Qianqian likes your grandmother, and what about you? You don't like her?"

"No...."

Yu Meixia suddenly asks awkwardly. "Xiao Bing.... I.... I want to borrow money from you. I will repay you after I start working. Can.... You lend me money? It's fine if you can't."

Dong Xuebing blinked. "Why do you need money?"

"I.... I want to buy some gifts for my parents. I had not been around them for years, and I hope to make up for them. I.... I also don't want to use their money."

Dong Xuebing readily agreed. "No problem. Are you still using the same bank account? I will transfer money into your account when the bank opens. Is 200,000 enough?"

Yu Meixia got a shock. "No need.... I don't need that much. 5,000 is enough."

"Then I will transfer 50,000 to you. Just keep it and let me know if it is not enough."

Dong Xuebing will never reject Yu Meixia.

"Ok. Thank you."

"We have been together for so long. What's there to thank?"

"Yes."

Dong Xuebing is feeling thankful after hanging up. Yu Meixia would rather use his money than her parents' money. This means she treated him closer than her parents. Although blood is thicker than water, they had only met each other for one day. They need time to bond.

Slightly past 6 am.

Dong Xuebing looks at the time and opens the window to enjoy the fresh air and scenery.

Too many things had happened yesterday, and Dong Xuebing needs time to digest it.

For example, Sister Yu had reunited with her birth parents.

The discovery of FORWARD's uses.

Saving Qian Lihua's life.

Dong Xuebing recalls everything that had happened yesterday, and his focus is on FORWARD.

FORWARD can forward the time of the newspaper box to the next day, and the next day's newspaper will appear in it. There's no doubt about the authenticity of that copy of the newspaper as the time, location, and description of Qian Lihua's accident had been accurate. This matter had cleared many doubts in Dong Xuebing's mind. He concluded that the future could be changed. He

had stopped the accident, and it gave him the confidence to change the future. No one else in the world can do this except for him.

Suddenly, there are noises outside of the apartment.

It sounded like footsteps and rustling of newspapers.

Dong Xuebing turned to the door and walked over immediately. He looked out through the door viewer and saw a man delivering a newspaper. That man turned and left after delivering today's newspaper.

Today's newspaper is here.

It's the copy of the newspaper Dong Xuebing got yesterday with FORWARD.

Dong Xuebing's heart is racing as he opens the door. He looked at the plastic newspaper box and took out his keys to open it.

A copy of the newspaper is in the box.

Dong Xuebing took it out and looked at the date.

Dong Xuebing returned to his living room after closing the door and sat on the sofa to read it.

The headlines and contents of that political news remained unchanged.

But the article about that accident was changed to an article about Nan Shan District's meeting on environmental issues. Dong Xuebing flipped the newspaper, and that drink driving accident news article is on the third page. Qian Lihua's name was also not mentioned in the article. Other news articles and advertisements in the newspaper are still the same.

The future had been changed, and a new question arose in Dong Xuebing's head.

FORWARD had pushed forward the time of the newspaper box to turn it into the 'next day's' box. Then why is the newspaper he received today not the day after that 'next day's' copy?

Dong Xuebing thought for a while and concluded. FORWARD's power can only work on an object for that moment. He pushed forward the time of that newspaper box to the next day, and the next day's newspaper appeared in it at that moment. This is the power of FORWARD, but it will not continue. This means the newspaper box's time had been pushed forward, and the time has no connection with the next day. When the delivery man delivered today's newspaper, the box became today's newspaper box again.

Dong Xuebing got the answer and took out that newspaper with Qian Lihua's article. He looks at it and burns it with his lighter.

FORWARD.

Dong Xuebing knows he must put this new command to good use in the future.

Chapter 694: The low point of Xiao Dong's career

It's August, and the weather has gotten cooler.

Friday morning. Dong Xuebing drove the Subdistrict Office's new Santana to the Nan Shan District Committee building for a meeting. It's a meeting on the District's green landscaping work, and most

of the District's leaders and other Subdistrict Offices' Leaders had arrived. The District Government staff are busy preparing the documents and materials.

The meeting room becomes quiet when Dong Xuebing enters.

Many people glanced at Dong Xuebing and continued with their work.

"Old Liu, you are here."

"I just arrived. What time did you come?"

"I arrived early. Eh? Old Li, you are here too. I thought you had fallen sick."

"It's not anything major. I am fine after some rest."

"Haha.... That's good to know."

The Leaders greeted each other warmly and sat together. But no one is willing to speak to Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing knew this would happen and is used to it. That's why he purposely arrives just before the meeting starts.

A while later, Mayor Geng and her staff arrived.

The meeting started, and everyone sat at attention.

Dong Xuebing looks at Geng Yuehua's expression. She still looks unapproachable, and she does not look at him. She acted as if they didn't know each other. She spoke about the District's green landscaping work, and Dong Xuebing is not listening. He looks at her curvy body and thinks about which bra and underwear she is wearing under her suit. Is she wearing that red lacy translucent underwear or that bright green set? He had not met Geng Yuehua for almost a month other than work. She seems very busy with work and did not return to the Subdistrict Office Family Quarters. She also did not reply to Dong Xuebing's SMS, and her tone sounded stiff when she answered his calls.

Suddenly, Geng Yuehua stopped talking.

Everyone is looking at Geng Yuehua, wondering what happened.

Geng Yuehua stares at Dong Xuebing coldly. "Director Dong!"

"Huh?" Dong Xuebing looks at her. "Mayor Geng?"

Geng Yuehua continued in a cold tone. "Repeat what I had said earlier!"

Everyone at the meeting turns to Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing is speechless as he thinks to himself. You had talked for almost ten minutes, and I don't have your script. How can I repeat everything you said? Furthermore, Dong Xuebing had not been listening to her. He was admiring her body and guessing what she was wearing underneath.

Dong Xuebing kept quiet.

District Mayor's secretary, Ma Jian, frowned as she looked at Dong Xuebing.

Executive Deputy Mayor Shen Fei shook his head.

The air in the meeting room becomes stiff. Geng Yuehua coldly says. "If anyone of you is not interested, you can submit a report to let me know. I will allow you to skip this meeting." Although she sounded like she was talking to everyone, she was obviously targeting Dong Xuebing.

The troublemaker Dong Xuebing got scolded again. Everyone has lost count of the times he had been scolded this month.

The other Leaders are trying to hold back their laughter.

The meeting ended after one hour, and Geng Yuehua left the meeting without looking at anyone.

Dong Xuebing looks at Geng Yuehua's sexy back and ruffles his hair. His life is getting harder, and it will be harder if this carries on.

Dong Xuebing had acted as if nothing had happened during this month. He did his job at work, but he is under a lot of stress. Although Wang Anshi has not recovered, his faction has made things difficult for his Subdistrict Office. It's the same for the Geng Faction. He understands why Geng Yuehua had been targeting him. Everyone knows he had sent Geng Xinke to the Party School, and she needs to show others her attitude.

It's harder for Dong Xuebing to work as time passes.

District Party Committee's faction and the Mayor's faction are suppressing Guang Ming Subdistrict. Dong Xuebing doesn't know when they will give him the killing blow.

Dong Xuebing doesn't like this feeling of waiting for something bad to happen.

The District Party Committee and Government are isolating Dong Xuebing. No Leaders are willing to speak to him, and most departments are unwilling to work with his Subdistrict Office.

Guang Ming Subdistrict has become an ornament and is powerless to do anything. Geng Yuehua is the acting Party Secretary, and she will not do anything to Dong Xuebing except for some scolding. But it's different for Wang Anshi. Dong Xuebing refused to treat his appendicitis, which offended him greatly. He will not let Dong Xuebing off when he returns.

The situation is not good.

Wang Anshi will be discharged from the hospital soon, and Dong Xuebing must think of a solution.

Late morning. Guang Ming Subdistrict Office.

Dong Xuebing was prepared when he offended everyone. But when he thought back, he realized he was too naive and rash. He regrets not listening to Yang Zhaode's suggestion to transfer to another District. Although he might have to start from zero again, he does not need to face many obstructions and enemies. It's much easier for him to rise to the top than now. He is facing obstruction in everything he does now. How is he going to help the Subdistrict Office get results? All he can do now is play games in his office.

Dong Xuebing thought about his problems and felt something was going to happen. He knows if this carries on, he will lose his position as someone will attack him.

I will face all dangers head-on and return the favor if anyone dares to mess with me.

This has been Dong Xuebing's way of working. He calmed down after a while and thought about it. When is this going to end? He is confident in his abilities, but this is not the solution. Even if he

brings one of his enemies down, the second and third enemies will appear. Other than venting his anger, it will not end his problems. He stands nothing to gain from it.

Dong Xuebing is not considering how he is going to fight against others. He needs a solution to get out of this situation.

Results.

Political achievements.

These are the things Dong Xuebing needs now.

Dong Xuebing had come to Nan Shan District for two months. The Role Model Unit award is an achievement, but it's not enough. He needs to get another outstanding result to get promoted on an exceptional basis. Once he is promoted, he can leave this place and move on.

But this is not an easy task.

Dong Xuebing can't even do his work properly due to the obstructions and suppression from other departments. No one will allow him to get results.

Dong Xuebing is at his lowest point since joining the Government service, and it's hard for him to make a comeback. Countless people within the Government service will give in to the pressure and resign when they are at the lowest point of their career. He doesn't want to be one of them.

Dong Xuebing snubbed his cigarette and rubbed his temples.

He needs a turning point to make a comeback.

What should he do?

Results.... Results to help him get promoted to Deputy Director.

Dong Xuebing noticed the newspaper on his desk. It's Fen Zhou Daily, one of the newspapers the Subdistrict Office subscribed to. He immediately got an idea. If he can use FORWARD to see the future, he might get a chance.

But Fen Zhou City is too big. Yan Tai County and Nan Shan District are part of Fen Zhou City. There might not be any news on Nan Shan District in the papers, which will waste his precious time. What about Nan Qi Daily? But Nan Qi Daily also covers a wide area. Dong Xuebing only needs to see what happened in Guang Ming Subdistrict.

For example, are there any upcoming manpower changes or future work reports in the papers?

These cannot be found in the City's newspapers. Even if an article on these appeared in the papers, it would not be detailed. Also, FORWARD can only bring forward the time for a short period. Dong Xuebing cannot take this risk. He needs a foolproof solution.

Oh yes.

The Subdistrict Office has internal papers.

Dong Xuebing remembers it's an e-newspaper for internal circulation.

Chapter 695: Earthquake is happening soon

Dong Xuebing looks at the time and its lunch break.

An Office Department staff knocked on the door and entered Dong Xuebing's office to deliver a document. Dong Xuebing said to him. "Help me get Director Zhou to come to my office."

"Yes." That staff left.

A while later, Zhou Yanru knocked and entered Dong Xuebing's office. "Director, are you looking for me?"

Dong Xuebing looked at Zhou Yanru and laughed. "What's wrong? You look listless."

Zhou Yanru forced a smile. "I'm fine. I am not feeling well."

"Then you should take care of your health."

"Yes. I appreciate your concern."

Dong Xuebing knows the reason why Zhou Yanru becomes like this. She has nothing to do. It might be fine for someone with no ambitions. But it's torture for someone ambitious like Dong Xuebing. He needs to get results, but there's no work to do, and he doesn't want to spend the rest of his life like this. He can tell Zhou Yanru is also an ambitious person. That's why he felt apologetic towards her for causing this situation. He had implicated everyone in the Subdistrict Office and caused Guang Ming Subdistrict to be 'blacklisted.'

Dong Xuebing is determined to change the situation as it is no longer about him. He created this mess, and he needs to be responsible for it. He must lead Guang Ming Subdistrict to achieve something great, or he will disappoint himself, his subordinates, and the residences.

Dong Xuebing looked at Zhou Yanru with determination. "You should take a break if you are not feeling well. I asked you to ask you about our Subdistrict's internal e-newspaper. I remember we have something like this."

Zhou Yanru is puzzled. "Internal e-newspaper?"

"Don't we have it?" Dong Xuebing asked. "I overheard about this from some staff."

Guang Ming Subdistrict doesn't have many staffs, and it's not directly under the City Government. It is also not an important department, and they can't have their e-newspaper.

Zhou Yanru thought for a while and realized what Dong Xuebing was referring to. "Are you talking about our Subdistrict Office's website bulletin?"

"Where is it? Let me see."

Zhou Yanru walked over to Dong Xuebing's PC and opened their Subdistrict Office's website.

"This is our Subdistrict's website which was set up last year. Two of our Work Party Office staff are in charge of updating our Subdistrict Office's latest news for internal circulation. You can also call this our internal newspaper." The site's header states Guang Ming Subdistrict, and it looks like any other government website.

This is what Dong Xuebing is looking for. The site has all the announcements from the various Subdistrict departments and neighborhood committees. Most of the news is positive news and

seldom has negative ones. But this is not enough for him. “Does this e-newsletter have printed copies?”

“Yes.” Zhou Yanru doesn’t know why Dong Xuebing wants to look at this. “This newsletter is updated once a week on average, and it will be pasted on the noticeboard at our Service Lobby. Sometimes it will be updated once every three days, and sometimes every two weeks.

Yes. This is it.

Dong Xuebing reply immediately. “Print an extra copy and deliver it to my office from now on.”

“No problem.” Zhou Yanru smiled. “I will inform them when I get back.”

Dong Xuebing nodded. “Oh, tell those people in charge of the website to publish a new copy of it within these two days and bring it to my office before office hours.” He looked at his desk and opened the first drawer on his right. He will place his cigarettes and lighters in it, and it’s empty most of the time. “Here. Tell them to place it in this drawer when they deliver it.”

Zhou Yanru was puzzled, but she still nodded. “Ok.”

Dong Xuebing asked Zhou Yanru to return to work after giving her the instructions.

It was lunchtime, but Dong Xuebing did not go downstairs for lunch. He touched the drawer on his right and thought about his instructions to Zhou Yanru.

There should not be any problems, and Dong Xuebing believes Zhou Yanru will take his words seriously.

The next issue.... The next’s next issue.... The issue after that.... All these issues should appear in this drawer. Alright. Let’s start.

Dong Xuebing cleared his mind and took a deep breath.

He focused on that drawer a few moments later and gently placed his hand on it.

FORWARD.

FORWARD is activated, and Dong Xuebing can feel his remaining time getting lesser.

Dong Xuebing is taking a huge gamble this time. He will use up all the time he saved over the past few weeks, hoping to find an opportunity to break the stalemate.

Ten minutes passed.

Thirty minutes passed.

Dong Xuebing sat in his office without moving. He looks frozen in place with one hand on the drawer. Suddenly, he felt FORWARD was deactivated. He must have used up all his remaining time. One minute of FORWARD is equivalent to one day, and he should have pushed forward the time to more than one month.

It’s time to see the results.

This must not go wrong.

Dong Xuebing pulled open the empty drawer nervously.

A copy of the printed e-newspaper is in the drawer.

Success!

It worked!

Dong Xuebing glanced at the header and the date on the top right corner.

This is more than one month later copy!

Dong Xuebing is overjoyed. He crossed his legs and looked at the headlines with anticipation. But his excitement was gone when he saw the headline, and he almost fell off his chair.

Damn!

Are you joking with me?!

Dong Xuebing felt he damn unlucky. The bold red headline states the earthquake in Fen Zhou City is amended to 8.0 on the Richter scale!

Chapter 696: One month to the earthquake

Work Party Secretary Office.

Dong Xuebing stares at the copy of Guang Ming Subdistrict Office's internal e-newspaper without saying a word. Is this a joke?

Fen Zhou City's earthquake has been amended to 8.0 on the Richter Scale?

An 8.0 earthquake is going to happen in Fen Zhou City!

Dong Xuebing dares not to continue reading the e-newspaper. He put it down, walked to the window, and lit a cigarette. This is too shocking. Earthquakes over 7.8 happened in China before, but it's rare for such strong earthquakes to happen in densely populated cities like Fen Zhou City. If the earthquake happens, it will be devastating. Residential and commercial buildings, schools, and houses might collapse, and hundreds of thousands of people will be affected by it.

This piece of news is real.

An earthquake is going to happen.

Dong Xuebing paced around in his office and snubbed his cigarette. He returned to his chair and started reading the e-newspaper.

This copy of the e-newspaper is printed after the earthquake.

The article states the earthquake happened a few days ago, and the epicenter is confirmed to be in Da Feng County. Fen Zhou City is confirmed to be the worst-hit zone. Numerous buildings are damaged, and there are countless victims. 89,223 people are killed, 379,112 people are injured, and 35,103 are missing. Dong Xuebing's heart sank when he saw the figures. It's only a few days after the earthquake, and the death toll is almost one hundred thousand. This number will continue to rise because of the aftershocks. All the buildings on the streets and neighborhoods at the epicenter should be collapsed.

Dong Xuebing quickly opened another drawer and took out a Fen Zhou City map.

If the earthquake's epicenter is at Da Feng County, Yan Tai County, and Nan Shan District, which are near it will be the disaster zone. There's no way for Dong Xuebing to avoid that.

Damn!

Why is this happening?

Dong Xuebing is frustrated. This is an unavoidable disaster.

Dong Xuebing looked at the papers again, hoping to see the earthquake-affected zones. But Guang Ming Subdistrict's e-newspapers only state the incidents within their jurisdiction. The article did not state the damage of other Districts and Sub-districts. A few pictures on the e-newspaper show a collapsed billboard on the road, crushing a few cars. The building at the back is full of cracks. A shop selling construction materials beside the building had collapsed. The shop's signboard can be seen among the debris.

This is Guang Ming Subdistrict after the earthquake.

Dong Xuebing took a deep breath. He had driven past this area before, which will become ruined after the earthquake.

Dong Xuebing continues reading the following pages of the e-newspaper. It reported the damage from the disaster in Guang Ming Subdistrict in detail and pictures.

Dong Xuebing is looking terrible as he reads the papers.

Guang Ming Subdistrict's damage is too severe. Dong Xuebing knows his Subdistrict will be affected because its population is higher than other towns and villages. But he did not expect it to be so severe. A set of figures on the last second page made him speechless. The death toll in Guang Ming Subdistrict reached 827, 2,200 people were injured, and 121 people were missing after the earthquake and aftershocks.

Dong Xuebing cursed out loud when he saw the figures.

The death toll is nearly one thousand!

Only tens of thousand people lived in the Subdistrict when they checked previously.

The ratio of the victims against their population is....

Dong Xuebing got to the last page of the e-newspaper. Guang Ming Subdistrict's number of victims is among the top five in Fen Zhou City's Districts, towns, and villages.

At the end of the article, Dong Xuebing saw his name.

Guang Ming Subdistrict Office Director and Work Party Secretary Dong Xuebing took responsibility and resigned.

Dong Xuebing slapped his forehead and locked the copy of the e-newspaper in another drawer.

Took responsibility and resigned?!

I was forced to resign?!

That's right. Although earthquakes are natural disasters and are unavoidable, people can take precautions. For example, most residential and commercial buildings are built to withstand 6 to 8 earthquakes nowadays. Most buildings should survive the earthquake. He can strengthen the

residents' knowledge of taking precautions against disasters and clearing the escape routes. These are the duties of the Subdistrict Office. Guang Ming Subdistrict Office Director should take responsibility for it. Even if he had done his job well, the higher-ups would need a scapegoat to take the blame.

There's still one month to the earthquake.

Dong Xuebing only has one month in his job.

Dong Xuebing frowned. He thought he could use FORWARD to find an opportunity to get results and be promoted. But he found out that he could not even keep his position because of the disaster. The number of people killed and injured is bothering him. These people are his residents, and it was his job to protect them.

Almost one thousand people are going to die!

Dong Xuebing banged his desk in anger.

That's right. Those people are not dead yet!

The earthquake still has not happened yet! This e-newspaper is from the future!

Dong Xuebing is forced to a corner. Without any way to escape, his fighting spirit rose. Since he knows the earthquake is happening, he must do his best to change the outcome!

There's still one month!

Chapter 697: Persuasion

Subdistrict Office.

Dong Xuebing enters the cafeteria after lunch hours. He is starving.

"Do you all still serve lunch?" Dong Xuebing asked at the counter.

The Chef quickly replies. "Director, you still have not eaten?"

Dong Xuebing nodded. "I had some work to do. It's fine if there's no more food."

"We still have." The Chef replied. "But it's cold. Let me heat the food first."

Dong Xuebing waved his hand. "Don't bother. I don't mind. Just give me a serving. Thank you."

"Ok. Please wait for a while." Although the cafeteria had been outsourced, everyone working there knows this young man is the highest-ranking officer at the Subdistrict. The cafeteria staffs have a good impression of Dong Xuebing because he is polite and respectful towards everyone. Even when he said he didn't mind eating cold food, the Chef still asked his assistant to heat the dishes quickly before giving them to Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing sat by the windows and ate slowly. He is thinking about how he will face the upcoming 8.0 earthquake.

Food feels tasteless when Dong Xuebing has something on his mind. He is starving, but he doesn't have an appetite. He puts down his chopsticks and looks around. He is the only person in the cafeteria, and the kitchen staff is resting at the back. He took out his phone and called Yang Zhaode.

Ring... ring... ring....

Dong Xuebing took a mouthful of vegetables while waiting for Yang Zhaode to answer.

"Hello, Xiao Bing." Yang Zhaode answered cheerfully.

"Uncle Yang, are you busy?" Dong Xuebing swallowed his food and asked.

"No. I just finished lunch and am resting in my office."

"Can I take up some of your time? Err.... I have something to ask you."

"Haha.... Did someone provoke you again?"

Dong Xuebing is speechless. "No. It's not about that." He organized his words in his mind and said. "It is about earthquakes."

Yang Zhaode paused for a second and laughed. "Why are you asking about earthquakes?"

Dong Xuebing replied. "I can't stop thinking about it. A friend from an overseas National Earthquake Administration told me that there's a high possibility of a major earthquake happening in Hebei Province in the next few years. You should know the devastating damage from earthquakes, and I felt our City should take precautions to prevent high losses and death tolls. Uncle Yang, I hope you can raise this issue to the City's Party Committee and discuss ways to lessen the damages from a major earthquake."

Yang Zhaode is speechless. "An earthquake is going to happen in Hebei Province? Is this a medium-term earthquake forecast?"

Dong Xuebing doesn't know what that means and replied. "I think so."

"Huh? What do you mean? I have not received any news about this. The Province's Earthquake Administration will have reported it to us if there's a forecast. But we have not received anything."

"Ah... there's nothing wrong to take some precautions."

"Xiao Bing, you should know that I am from the Organization Department. How am I going to bring up about earthquake precautions to the Party Committee?"

"But you are also a City Party Committee member. Anything that concerns the City concerns you."

"Let me put it this way." Yang Zhaode helplessly reply. "There's nothing to hide from you. Although overseas are more advanced in forecasting earthquakes than our country, the medium-term forecast and short-term forecast are not 100% accurate. Also, our National Earthquake Administration had not issued any earthquake

warnings to Hebei Province. I don't know where you got this information, but it must be a rumor that cannot be trusted."

Dong Xuebing is getting frustrated. "Uncle Yang, you never know what will happen in the future."

"You are too pessimistic. How can there be an earthquake suddenly?"

"Didn't earthquakes happen suddenly without warning previously? Who knows what will happen?"

"Xiao Bing, what's wrong with you today?"

"I am worried. Our City is densely populated, and it will be devastating if a major earthquake happens."

"Don't worry. Nothing will happen." Yang Zhaode reminded. "Luckily, you told me about this. Remember, you must not tell others about this. If not, this is considered spreading earthquake rumors, and you might be charged for it. I am not joking with you."

"Uncle Yang! Can you bring it up during your Party Committee meeting?"

"It's not that I don't want to help you. I will help you if it is about your work issues, but earthquake...."

"What if an earthquake happens?"

"What if it doesn't? I am confident that this will not happen."

Knock... knock... someone knocked on Yang Zhaode's door. "I have a visitor. Xiao Bing, stop thinking about this."

Du... du... du... Yang Zhaode hangs up.

Dong Xuebing threw his phone on the table and continued eating his lunch. He thought for a while and called Xie Huilan.

Xie Huilan giggled when she answered. "Hello?"

"What are you doing?"

"Haha... make a guess."

"How do I know what you are doing? Reading reports?"

"Almost. I am writing a speech for tomorrow." There's some rustling of papers in her background. "You need my help?"

"How do you know I need your help?"

"You can't hide anything, and I can tell from your face. It's the same for your voice too. Tell me about it. What trouble have you created again?"

Dong Xuebing is speechless. Why are you all keep assuming that I had created trouble? Am I a troublemaker? Hmmm.... Fine.... I admit I create some troubles, but you all should not keep talking about it. "I am not in any trouble. I want to tell you something. Do you know about earthquakes? I am not referring to the earthquakes within the government sector. I am talking about the real earthquakes."

Xie Huilan laughed. "Do you think I know about it?"

Dong Xuebing replied. "Even a three-year-old kid knows about earthquakes. How can you not know about it?"

"Since you know I know about it, why are you asking?"

"Hehe.... Are you trying to pick a fight with me? I am trying to talk to you nicely. Sister Xie... Huilan... Comrade Xie... can you be more serious? I am talking about a serious matter now." Dong Xuebing doesn't want to argue with her. "I heard from a friend that a major earthquake might happen in Hebei Province soon. It will be an earthquake measuring more than 7.0 on the Richter scale. You should know the destruction of a major earthquake, and I hope you take precautions. Yan Tai County must be prepared, or it will be too late when it happens."

"Are you drunk?"

"What are you talking about? I still have not finished my lunch."

"Then why are you talking about earthquakes? I have not received any information. You must not believe in these rumors."

"I would rather believe it than regret later."

"Are you out of your mind?"

"My mind is very clear. Just tell me that you will get Yan Tai County to take precaution."

Xie Huilan paused for a second. "We have been focusing on economic developments, but we had not forgotten about earthquake precautions. Isn't this enough? I don't see the need to focus on earthquake precautions now. It will be a waste of resources, and it will be formalism."

"Why is there no need to take precautions? Is the County ready for an 8.0 earthquake?"

"We are not prepared for an 8.0 earthquake. But how do you know an earthquake is happening? Did you hear it from someone else?"

Dong Xuebing doesn't know how to answer Xie Huilan. He can't explain how he knows about it. "Just be prepared! Do you think I will harm you?"

"This is not about whether you are harming me or not. As the head of a County, I cannot waste precious resources on a rumor. Let's stop talking about this, ok?"

“Sister Xie!”

“Haha.... Even if you call me Mum, I will not entertain you.”

Dong Xuebing is mad after hanging up the call. Xie Huilan doesn’t believe him and what she said made him angrier.

Dong Xuebing took a deep breath and is not giving up. He immediately calls Geng Yuehua.

Geng Yuehua answered. “What is it?”

Dong Xuebing went straight to the point. “It is about earthquake prevention. Mayor Geng, can our District conduct an earthquake prevention exercise? It would be best if all Subdistrict Offices could conduct such exercises. I heard from a friend in the Earthquake Administration that an earthquake is going to happen in our Hebei Province....”

Geng Yuehua interrupted. “No!”

“Yuehua! Listen to me....”

“I have no time for your nonsense! Bye!”

“Damn! I am not drunk!”

Du... du... du.... The other party hangs up.

Dong Xuebing slapped his forehead and put down his phone. He doesn’t know what to say.

Yang Zhaode doesn’t believe him.

Xie Huilan doesn’t believe him.

Geng Yuehua doesn’t believe him.

These people are the closest to him, and if they don’t believe him, no one will believe him.

Dong Xuebing knows he cannot blame them. If anyone told him to take earthquake precautions yesterday, he would kick him out!

But a major earthquake is going to happen soon!

Dong Xuebing had tested FORWARD, and the earthquake will surely happen in about one month!

Dong Xuebing has no mood to continue eating. He stepped out of the cafeteria and looked at the bustling buildings outside. He narrowed his eyes. He can’t convince Yang Zhaode and the rest to take precautions, but he can get Guang Ming Subdistrict prepared. He can still make the decisions here. Even if no one believes him, he must still do his best. He must protect the residents of his Subdistrict.

He must try his best to save everyone.

Let’s start with Guang Ming Subdistrict and forget about everything else now.

Chapter 698: No one can die

Saturday, late morning.

Dong Xuebing is not working today, but one word kept appearing in his head. Earthquake!

Dong Xuebing took a deep breath and finished his breakfast quickly. He has no time to waste. He sat on the sofa with the future e-newspaper and a notebook to write his proposal. He needs to jot down everything he needs to do and plan everything before the earthquake. Most importantly, he needs to lower Guang Ming Subdistrict's casualties and hope to get zero death. He needs to convince Yang Zhaode, Xie Huilan, and Geng Yuehua. If he can't convince them once, he will try again until he succeeds.

The countdown has started for the earthquake.

Dong Xuebing has no choice. He needs to lower the casualty and death to keep his job. If he fails, it will be the end of his career, and thousands of people will die because of him. He can't afford to lose it.

There's one month left.

It is up to him now!

After completing his proposal, Dong Xuebing decides to use whatever methods he can think of to convince others.

Dong Xuebing smiled and switched on his laptop. He connects his phone to his laptop and bombards Xie Huilan and Geng Yuehua with SMS and emails about the casualties figures of recent earthquake disasters in China and other countries. He did not send it all in one SMS or email. He sent every disaster in one SMS and an email and sent tens of such SMS and emails!

Sent!

Send completed!

Send completed!

Dong Xuebing doesn't know how Xie Huilan and Geng Yuehua will react when they receive his SMS and emails. But he knows they will be mad.

Ring... ring... ring.... Dong Xuebing's phone rings.

Geng Yuehua called, and she shouted the moment Dong Xuebing answered. "Dong Xuebing! What the hell are you doing!?"

Dong Xuebing nonchalantly replied. "Don't be angry, Mayor Geng. I just want to let you know about the severity of an earthquake disaster. This is very important."

"Nonsense!" Du... du.... Geng Yuehua hangs up.

The next moment, Dong Xuebing received an SMS from Xie Huilan.

"Do you have nothing else to do?"

Dong Xuebing replied. "You must consider my suggestion seriously. Who knows if an earthquake will happen or not? You must treat this seriously."

Xie Huilan replied. "Haha.... I will consider about it."

Dong Xuebing smiled and replied to Xie Huilan's SMS. "Are you trying to brush me off?"

Xie Huilan: I can only consider it now. Please stop sending these messages to harass me. It's not easy to have a rest day. Haha....

Dong Xuebing rolled his eyes. He knows it's not easy to convince them, but Xie Huilan's slight change in attitude gave him hope.

The doorbell rings.

Dong Xuebing opens the door, and a young man in courier uniform is standing outside.

"Did you call for courier services?" That man asked.

"Yes. I need to send something." Dong Xuebing let that young man in and took out a few parcels for him. "These two are for Yan Tai County, Nan Shan District. This is for the City. I will give you the address now." These parcels contain earthquake-related documents and videos. He had prepared them last night. The two parcels for Yan Tai County are sent to Xie Huilan's office and her apartment. The ones for Nan Shan District are for Geng Yuehua, and the parcel to be sent to the City is for his mother.

After the courier left, Dong Xuebing called his mother, Luan Xiaoping. "Mum, are you working today?"

Luan Xiaoping replied. "I am preparing my curriculum at home. What is it?"

"Oh, I had sent some materials on an earthquake to you."

"Earthquake? Your Uncle Yang had told me about you yesterday...."

"I can't explain it now. Mum, I just want to ask you one question. Who is closer to you? Uncle Yang or me?"

Luan Xiaoping laughed. "Of course it's you. You are my son."

Dong Xuebing smiles. "Then do me a favor. You must play the video I prepared in the parcel when Uncle Yang returns. You must make him watch it and look at the materials I sent to you."

"What are you trying to do?"

"Mum, just listen to me."

"..... fine. I will try."

"Thank you, Mum. I will leave this to you."

Dong Xuebing had completed his task of convincing them today. He will bombard them every day until they are convinced, as this is for the good of Fen Zhou City's residents and Xie Huilan and Geng Yuehua's career advancement. As a lowly Subdistrict Office Director, he was forced to resign after the earthquake. Who knows what punishment Xie Huilan and Geng Yuehua will get? Maybe they will be terminated or demoted. So, he must not stop convincing them.

Morning, 10 am...

Dong Xuebing takes a sip of water and is prepared for his next move.

Dong Xuebing has no control over other areas. He can only remind and warn them, but he can do more in his Subdistrict. Of course, he cannot go around shouting, 'an earthquake is coming!' Yang Zhaode had reminded him that spreading rumors on earthquakes is a serious offense. But there's nothing wrong with getting the Subdistrict to take precautions against natural disasters.

Dong Xuebing looked at the first page of his notebook. He had written down the number of people injured and killed by a health wine factory's advertising boards in Guang Ming Subdistrict. Forty-three people died because of this factory's advertising boards. All of this factory's advertising boards have serious defects, and four out of five advertising boards crashed down during the earthquake. The billboard Dong Xuebing saw in the e-newspaper picture is one of this factory's advertising boards. These 43 casualties are either crashed or met in traffic accidents due to the advertising boards falling onto the roads.

Dong Xuebing will target this health wine factory's advertising boards first!

Dong Xuebing will not let these 43 people die in his Subdistrict! He is not going to let anyone in his Subdistrict Office die!

This might sound impossible, but Dong Xuebing must try to make it happen!

Chapter 699: Advertising Board

Late morning.

It is a windy day with strong gusts of winds.

Dong Xuebing puts away his notebook. He knows what he should do and is about to return to the Subdistrict Office to investigate it.

Suddenly, Dong Xuebing's phone rang.

The caller speaks urgently. "Director Dong, I am Xiao Chen from the Office Department."

Dong Xuebing asked. "What is it? Did something happen?"

"I received news that an advertisement board in Liu Xiang Neighborhood had fallen."

"Advertising board?" Dong Xuebing's face changed. "Is anyone injured? Who is at the scene?"

"I had just received a call from them, and I called you to inform you. I don't know about the situation there."

"Alright. Notify your Director Zhou and ask her to go over immediately. I am on my way."

Dong Xuebing put down his phone and frowned. He was about to rectify all the advertising boards, and this incident happened. This means the advertisement boards in his Subdistrict are a major hazard. He grabbed his bag and rushed downstairs to his Santana. He drove it towards the accident site, and he received more information about that accident on his way. He was told that the advertisement board had injured someone.

Slightly more than ten minutes later.

A road in Liu Xiang Neighborhood.

When Dong Xuebing arrived, he saw a five-meter advertisement board hanging dangerously by the roadside. One of the hinges had given way, secured flimsily by a screw on the other hinge. The whole thing might fall anytime.

Zhou Yanru had arrived, and she went over to greet Dong Xuebing. "Director!"

"What is going on?" Dong Xuebing looked towards the commotion and saw two people arguing. A crowd had formed around them.

Zhou Yanru quickly explain. "One of the hinges of the advertisement board had broken because of the wind, and it hit someone when it fell."

"Is that person ok?"

"Luckily, she only suffered light injuries."

"Where is she?"

"Inside."

Dong Xuebing is relieved and walks closer. He looked at the advertising board and Health Wine Factory's advertisement. He realized that this advertisement board is not only a hazard during an earthquake. It is a safety hazard for everyone in Guang Ming Subdistrict now!

Dong Xuebing walked over to the crowd and saw a middle-aged woman arguing with a middle-aged man in a suit.

The woman had suffered some injuries, and her sleeve was torn. She is shouting angrily. "Are you trying to kill me?! If my reaction is slightly slower, I would be dead!"

The man replied emotionlessly. "This is an accident."

"What do you mean by accident? How can a gust of wind blow your advertisement board down? You all must compensate me, or I will not let you off!"

The man replied. "I am Song Qingming, the boss of the Health Wine Factory. We are sorry for this accident, but we are not responsible for it. It is the advertising company we hired who had not fastened the advertisement board securely."

The woman shouted. "Where are the people from the advertising company?"

"Their company had closed down, and we can't find them." Song Qingming replied.

The woman shouted again. "This is your advertisement board! How can you claim you all have nothing to do with it?!"

Song Qingming shook his head. "I had explained to you. We did not build and put up this advertisement board, and this accident has nothing to do with us. I hope you can calm down. No one had expected this accident to happen. We are willing to pay for your medical expenses on behalf of the advertising company. But we can't help with other compensations as we are not a charity organization."

The woman did not calm down. How can she be calm when almost killed by that advertisement board?

Song Qingming had maintained his composure until he lost his temper. He told that woman coldly. "I think we had done our part. You are not seriously injured, and we are willing to help the advertising company pay for your medical fees. Suppose you are not going to accept, fine. You can pay for your medical fees yourself. This accident has nothing to do with our factory. Go ahead and sue us if you want!"

The woman is mad beyond words.

Song Qingming turns to his assistant. "Let's go."

"Stop!" The woman shouted.

Song Qingming sneered. He pretended not to hear her and walked towards a Mercedes Benz by the roadside.

Dong Xuebing looks at Song Qingming and walks over slowly. He stands in front of that black Mercedes Benz and looks at him. "Mr. Song? Where are you going?"

Song Qingming gave Dong Xuebing a stare. "Do I need to tell you where I am going?! Move aside!"

Dong Xuebing laughed. "You are right. You do need to tell me."

Zhou Yanru interrupted. "This is our Guang Ming Subdistrict Office Director, Dong Xuebing.

"Director Dong?" Song Qingming immediately smiled and extended his hand for a handshake. "Oh, you are Director Dong. I had heard a lot about you."

Dong Xuebing shook his hand. "Don't mention it. What happened here?"

Song Qingming calmly replies. "This is the advertising company's issue. After they put up this advertisement board, their company collapsed. They might have some issues with the fixtures, but don't worry. I have called other companies, and someone will secure the advertisement board. Such accidents will not happen again. Sorry for alarming you."

Dong Xuebing smiles. "You still want to put it up? Mr. Song, you are treating this accident lightly."

"What's the problem?" Song Qingming laughed.

"There are lots of problems." Dong Xuebing stares at Song Qingming. "I think you should compensate and send that woman to the hospital first. You don't need to worry about the advertisement board. We will get people to remove it. If you want, you can remove it yourself."

Song Qingming's face changed when he heard this. "Remove it? Is this necessary?"

"What is more important than the residents' safety? An accident had happened, and a second or third accident might happen!"

"This is only an accident, and it will not happen again."

“It is not up to you to guarantee that.”

Subdistrict Offices have the power to interfere in many areas. They can interfere in resident disputes, salary arrears, forced eviction, and removal of advertisement boards. This advertisement board is a safety hazard, and the Subdistrict Office has the right to take it down. Moreover, Dong Xuebing knew Song Qingming’s advertisement boards would kill 43 people during the earthquake!

“This advertisement board must be removed.” Zhou Yanru added. “It had caused an accident, and we will not allow this safety hazard to remain here.”

Song Qingming’s eyes become cold. He had been operating in Nan Shan District for more than ten years and knew many people. He often hears about the God of Plagues, Dong Xuebing, during a drinking session with his friends. This matter concerns his interest, and he will not allow anyone to interfere. His factory is not doing well and is facing cash flow issues now. He needs advertisements and marketing to promote his Heath Wine, and he cannot afford to remove this advertisement board.

“I am afraid I cannot agree to it.” Song Qingming shook his head. “We had paid for this advertisement board and gotten the approval to put it up. It is in the contract.”

Dong Xuebing added. “Mr. Song, I think you might have mistaken. I am not talking about this advertisement board. All of your company’s advertisement boards in Guang Ming Subdistrict must be removed. You said this is the advertising company’s fault and we must check every advertisement board. I need to be responsible to our residents. This is not a joking matter!”

Zhou Yanru is stunned. Remove all the advertisement boards?!

Song Qingming’s face changed. “You all don’t have the right to do this!”

“I’m afraid we do have this power.” Dong Xuebing turns to Zhou Yanru. “Go back and check their company’s advertisement board application documents now. Check if their advertisement boards are legal or not.”

“..... Yes.” Zhou Yanru replied and left.

Song Qingming got furious. “Director Dong! Is there a need for these?!”

“Yes!” Dong Xuebing replied. He is confident the Health Wine Factory’s advertisement boards do not have the proper approvals to be put up!

Song Qingming forced a smile. “Can you give me ‘face’ and let this matter off?”

Dong Xuebing shrugged his shoulders. “I do want to give you ‘face,’ but who is giving me ‘face’?”

Dong Xuebing is angry with Song Qingming. Your company’s advertisement board had fallen and almost killed someone. The Subdistrict Office leaders are already here to investigate this accident, and you still want to put it up again? What if the advertisement board falls again? I will be held responsible for it! You are the one not giving me ‘face’ now! Dong Xuebing thinks about his resignation one month later. He knows it must have something to do with Song Qingming’s advertisements!

A Health Wine Factory staff walked over. “Manager Song, ICBC bank’s Director Tang is calling you about the loan.”

Song Qingming gave Dong Xuebing a stare and took the phone from his subordinate. He walked a few steps away and answered politely. "Hello, Director Tang. I am Song Qingming...."

Song Qingming ended his call and turned to his staff. "Contact Manager Yu and ask him to get someone to put up the advertisement board again!"

The staff nodded.

Dong Xuebing had just asked Song Qingming to remove this advertisement board, and he asked his staff to put it up again. This is a provocation. He turns to Dong Xuebing. "Director Dong, I am very busy. I don't have time to entertain you."

Dong Xuebing narrowed his eyes. "Mr. Song, you are a businessman, and you should know the consequences of going against the government."

Song Qingming smiled cockily. "Unless your Subdistrict Office can the official documents to remove it, these advertisement boards are our company's properties! No one, including the Subdistrict Office, has the right to ask me to remove it!"

Dong Xuebing nodded. Fine. You want to challenge me?!

It's been a while since I taught people like you a lesson! I am looking forward to it!

Chapter 700: Spotlight

Saturday.

Before noon.

Song Qingming knew he must give the Subdistrict Office's Leaders face after the accident. After all, they are the Leaders of this Subdistrict. He asked his men to pay for that woman's medical expenses and compensated her 2,000 RMB, hoping to settle this accident. After that, he returned to his factory with his assistant.

On the way to the factory, the assistant asked. "Boss, are we going to ask people to put up the advertisement board again?"

Song Qingming nodded. "The factory is not doing well, and we cannot afford any more losses."

"But Guang Ming Subdistrict Office...." The assistant felt uneasy. "Their attitude is a bit...."

"Ignore them!" Song Qingming replied. "We had paid the medical fees and compensated that woman. Just do as I say!"

"Yes. I will contact someone now."

"Get it up as soon as possible."

.....

Song Qingming returns to his office at his factory.

He took out his phone and called Nan Shan District's Industry and Commerce Bureau Deputy Chief. "Hello, Brother Yan. I'm Qingming. I need your help."

Deputy Chief Yan asked. "Is it about the advertisement board?"

"You know about it?! There's a little problem now."

"Is it not settled yet? What happened?"

Song Qingming frowned. "It's Dong Xuebing from Guang Ming Subdistrict. I don't know when I had offended him, and he is making a fuss out of nothing. This is an accident because of the strong wind today. A woman suffered some minor injuries, and I went there immediately to settle it. I met Dong Xuebing at the accident scene, and he demanded I remove all my advertisement boards in Guang Ming District. He also asked his men to check our factory's advertisement boards application documents."

Deputy Chief Yang paused. "How did you offend him?"

"How do I know?" Song Qingming replied. "Today is the first time I met him. How do I know what's wrong with him? He is purposely finding trouble with me!"

"Dong Xuebing does things differently from others. It's hard to guess what he is thinking."

"Brother Yan, what should I do now?"

"I had told you to take note of the application process and documents, but you refuse to listen...."

"I will send someone over to submit the documents now. Is it in time?"

Deputy Chief Yan paused for a while. He doesn't want to get involved in this matter as he doesn't want to offend Dong Xuebing.

Song Qingming cleared his throat. "Brother Yan, it's just resubmitting the application paperwork. I will thank you personally after it is settled."

A few seconds later, Deputy Chief Yan replied. "Alright. Get someone over now."

Song Qingming tapped on his desk after he hung up. He needs to keep his advertisement boards up, affecting the factory's sales. His factory is facing difficulties and is raising funds by getting a bank loan. This is the second time his factory is applying for a loan from the bank, and he has not repaid his previous debt. He thought of many ways and used all his connections, hoping to approve this loan. He could not repay his previous loan if he didn't get another loan from the bank. If the bank wants to minimize their losses and get back their money, they must give him a second or even a third loan. This is Song Qingming's plan to get the loan approved. If his advertisement boards do not have all the approvals and have quality issues, his loan might not be approved.

Song Qinghua made another call to ensure his advertisement boards were not taken down. He called Nan Shan District Urban Administrative and Law Enforcement Bureau. "Hello, Team Leader Xia. It's me."

"Oh, Xiao Song. I was about to call you. I heard that something happens to your factory's advertisement board."

“Yes. That’s why I am calling you for help.”

“What is it? You want to remove it?”

Song Qingming told him what had happened. “I am afraid Dong Xuebing will not let this matter rest and forcefully remove all our advertisement boards in Guang Ming Subdistrict.”

Team Leader Xia asked. “Dong Xuebing?”

“That’s right. Do you think I should contact him privately?” Song Qingming is closer to Team Leader Xia than Deputy Chief Yan, and he doesn’t need to hide anything from him. He is a businessman, and he will avoid offending the authorities if possible. He is asking Team Leader Xia if he should offer Dong Xuebing money to settle it.

Team Leader Xia got the hint and shook his head. “Dong Xuebing will not accept it.”

Song Qingming asked. “What should I do then?”

Team Leader Xia replied. “Xiao Song, you should have heard about what is going on in the district. Dong Xuebing has offended many people and is in a bad situation. From what I know, Guang Ming Subdistrict Office had been ostracized by everyone for more than a month. They don’t have any authority, and the District Government is looking for an opportunity to attack them. So, the person who should be worrying is Dong Xuebing and not you.”

Song Qingming laughed. “I feel better after hearing what you said.”

Team Leader Xia had taken many benefits from Song Qingming. “Let me offer you a suggestion. Secretary Wang is going to be discharged. Although I don’t know why Mayor Geng did not go after Dong Xuebing, you should know about Secretary Wang’s relationship with him. If Dong Xuebing insists on going after you, just drag it out and avoid any conflicts with him. Someone else will deal with him.”

Song Qingming laughed. “This is the best advice I have received.”

“Haha.... Stop your flattery.”

“Team Leader Xia, if the Subdistrict Office wants to take down the advertisement board by force....”

“Don’t worry. I will help you to delay it.”

“Thank you.”

Song Qingming felt much better after knowing Dong Xuebing was worse than him. Team Leader Xia’s advice was too late as he had already clashed with Dong Xuebing earlier at the accident site. He could not take back his words, and he asked his assistant to return to the accident site to put up the advertisement board again. The God of Plagues might be infamous, and he had heard many people talking about him. What can he do without authority? Without authority, he is just a nobody. Song Qingming doesn’t think a lowly Subdistrict Office Director can do anything to him.

Afternoon.

Knock... knock.... Zhou Yanru looks terrible when she enters the office. “Director.”

Dong Xuebing has been waiting for her. “Have you checked the wine factory’s advertisement boards’ application documents?”

Zhou Yanru controlled her anger and replied. “I had talked to the District’s Industry and Commerce Bureau, and they say their Leaders are not working today. They can only check the documents on Monday.”

Dong Xuebing is furious. “How can they ask us to wait until Monday? This is urgent.”

“That’s what I said, but they refused to cooperate and gave lots of excuses. I think we might not even get the documents on Monday.”

The District’s Industry and Commerce Bureau refusal tells Dong Xuebing that Song Qingming knows someone with authority there. He will resubmit the proper documents before next week. It will be harder for Dong Xuebing to remove the advertisement boards.

Dong Xuebing’s face changed. “What about the Urban Enforcement Bureau?”

“Director Wang is contacting them, and....”

Deputy Director Wang Yuling knocked on the door and entered. She is looking terrible. “Director, the Urban Enforcement Bureau refused to send their people. They want us to provide the removal paperwork first before they do anything.”

Dong Xuebing thought Wang Yuling would succeed because she is the District Party Secretary’s relative. But she failed.

Song Qingming had used his connections to go against the Subdistrict!

Also, someone in the District Government is trying to make this matter worse. Needless to say, it must be Wang Anshi’s men!

Just like what everyone thinks. Guang Ming Subdistrict has become a weak kitten without any support from the District Government. Other departments will not cooperate with them, and they have been isolated. There’s nothing they can do about it!

News of this incident spreads. Those staff who are working at the Subdistrict felt demoralized. If they can’t even do anything within their Subdistrict, what’s the point of having a Subdistrict Office?

At the same time, many District government staff heard about this incident and watched Guang Ming Subdistrict closely.

Everyone had ignored Dong Xuebing, but that does not mean he is out of the spotlight. He has been under the spotlight since last month. Many people are interested and watch his every movement. For example, news of Song Qingming going against the Guang Ming Subdistrict Office spread almost immediately. This is the first time someone is going against Dong Xuebing after he had offended all the top District Leaders. It will be humiliating if he cannot take down those advertisement boards.

Some staff is watching by the sidelines.

Some Leaders are trying to make matters worse for Dong Xuebing.

This small incident had placed Dong Xuebing in an awkward position. Forcefully remove the advertisement boards? No departments are willing to cooperate with him! Leave those advertisement boards alone? Dong Xuebing will lose respect and his authority!

Once Dong Xuebing showed his weakness, everyone he offended in the past will be going after him.