

PAW 951

Chapter 951: Socializing!

Lui An City Party Committee family quarters. Old Yang's apartment.

Dong Xuebing was carrying his daughter and playing with her when his phone rang. It was an unknown number.

"Hello, I am Dong Xuebing." He answered.

"Xuebing, it's me. Hou Qing." A woman replied.

Dong Xuebing smiled. "Sister Hou. Is this your number?"

"Yes. Haha.... I had to ask around to get your number." Hou Qing replied.

Dong Xuebing said. "Oh, I forgot to exchange numbers with you. I still need to thank you for this afternoon."

Hou Qing laughed. "I did not do anything. You don't need to thank me."

Dong Xuebing replied. "You were a great help when you asked those officers not to arrest me. If I clash with the officers, the incident would be worse."

"I only asked them not to get themselves into trouble. Our station's officers are no match for you. They cannot subdue you even if they bring the whole team."

"Stop.... I am not that good."

"Stop being modest. I had seen your fighting skills."

"Oh, are you looking for me?"

"Do you have time for dinner later?"

"Err...." Dong Xuebing looked beside him. "I planned to have dinner at home."

Hou Qing replied. "You should be returning to work tomorrow, right? It's difficult to meet you, and I do not want to let you go so easily."

Dong Xuebing smiled. "Alright. Tell me the place."

Hou Qing gave Dong Xuebing an address. "6 pm. See you there."

"Alright. See you later."

After hanging up, Dong Xuebing looked at his mother and Yang Zhaode. "Uncle Yang, Mum, I am going out."

Luan Xiaoping looked at him. "Who are you meeting?"

Dong Xuebing replied. "Hou Qing. Lui An City Public Security Bureau's Deputy Chief."

Yang Zhaode laughed. "Xiao Bing.... You have many friends. I heard about Xiao Hou. She is quite capable."

Dong Xuebing explained. "I met her once on a mission. It was a short time, and we were undercover for the Provincial Museum break-in case. Her identity was exposed, and I saved her. That's how we know each other." They were life and death friendships.

Yang Zhaode nodded. "It's good to have more friends."

"I am not having dinner at home." Dong Xuebing replied.

Luan Xiaoping was unhappy. "I didn't see you so busy most of the time. How come you are so busy during New Year? You can't even have a meal at home peacefully."

Dong Xuebing knew his mother missed him, and it's been a while since they had met. It was not easy for him to visit, and she wanted to spend more time with him.

"Err...." Dong Xuebing scratched his head.

Yang Zhaode said. "Let him go. At his level and position, he needs lots of socialization. He might even need to socialize every day. It's not up to him to decide."

Luan Xiaoping retorted. "When did he socialize before?"

Yang Zhaode was surprised. "Xiao Bing does not socialize with his colleagues?"

Dong Xuebing smiled. "Very seldom."

"How is it possible?" Yang Zhaode exclaimed. "When I was at your level, I never got to have dinner at home. I got to socialize with colleagues, businessmen, leaders, etc. It had become part of my job."

Luan Xiaoping explained to Dong Xuebing. "When working in Beijing State Security, he offended his unit's top leader, Chief Zhen. After that, he arrested the County Party Secretary's relative when he was working in Yan Tai County. After he was posted to Nan Shan District, he created lots of trouble for his District Party Secretary. In Fen Zhou City, he had offended the City Party Secretary because of Yunxuan's incident. Who would want to socialize with him besides a few closer colleagues?"

Luan Xiaoping was telling the truth. Dong Xuebing could return home on time every day because he offended too many people, most of whom were his superiors. People would think twice before talking to him. Only a small portion of people are willing to interact with him.

It was embarrassing, and Dong Xuebing was reluctant to admit it.

Yang Zhaode understood and was amused. "Xiao Bing is taking a different path. Be surrounded by enemies, yet he can still get promoted. This proves his capabilities, and I believe he will have a bright future."

Luan Xiaoping smacked her lips. "Stop siding with him. Hmph!"

Dong Xuebing is not Yang Zhaode's son, and the latter cannot reprimand him like his son. It would strain their relationship."

Dong Xuebing argued. "Mum, can you don't embarrass me?"

“You don’t allow me to talk about what you did?! Which government leader offend so many people? Just count the people you offended since you joined the government. It should be more than a hundred. Other leaders will try to get along well with their colleagues and leaders. You?! Why can’t you do the same as others?” Luan Xiaoping stared at Dong Xuebing. “Go ahead. I don’t want to care about you anymore. What time are you coming back?”

Dong Xuebing replied. “I am not sure.”

Dong Xuebing’s mother should be still mad about this afternoon’s incident, and he doesn’t dare to argue with her now.

Yang Zhaode immediately laughed and changed the subject. “Xiao Hou is a late bloomer, and she rose up the ranks these two years. You must not think lightly of people like her. Try to stay close to her.”

Dong Xuebing nodded. “I know, Uncle Yang. How about I invite her to your place for a meal another time?”

Yang Zhaode smiled. “Ok. I also wanted to chat with her. I have read her files, and she’s quite good. She also has a clean background.”

Clean background means Hou Qing has no backing, and Old Yang was trying to pull her over to his faction. Old Yang and Luan Xiaoping were new in Lui An City, and it’s good to have more help. With Dong Xuebing’s relationship with Hou Qing, it should be easy to get her on Yang Zhaode’s side.

6 pm.

A restaurant in Lui An City central.

Hou Qing was waiting at the entrance when Dong Xuebing arrived. She had changed from her uniform and wore a coat and suit pants.

Dong Xuebing quickly got out of his car and walked toward her. Hou Qing was one rank above him and was much older than him. She does not need to stand at the entrance to receive him and could wait inside. He guessed she might find out about his relationship with Old Yang. Many people at the estate saw what happened; someone might have told her after she left.

“Sister Hou.”

“You are here.”

“Sorry to keep you waiting.”

“I just reached.”

“Let’s go in. I will foot the bill.”

“Let’s wait for a while more. Eh? They are here.”

Dong Xuebing turned and saw a car stopped by the roadside. It’s Deputy Mayor Zhou and two other men. They should be Lui An City’s leaders.

Deputy Mayor Zhou smiled at Dong Xuebing. “Xiao Bing, you are here.”

“Mayor Zhou.” Dong Xuebing greeted.

Hou Qing introduced the other two men. “This is Chief Liu of the Finance Department, and this is our City Court’s Chief Justice Li.” She turned to them. “This is Dong Xuebing, Director Dong.”

Dong Xuebing could tell the two men were deputies from Hou Qing’s introduction.

Chief Liu extended his hand for a handshake. “I had heard great things about you, Director Dong.”

Dong Xuebing smiled awkwardly. “Please don’t say that. I am only notorious.”

Hou Qing laughed and thought to herself. You know yourself well.

Hou Qing can joke with Dong Xuebing because of their relationship, not Chief Liu and Justice Li. “Of course not. Director Dong, you are so humble. You saved many lives during the earthquake, and our Courts even set up a team to learn and study what you did.”

This was not flattery.

When Dong Xuebing was buried under the rumble, everyone thought he was dead. Many units conducted work meetings to learn from his actions. But after he suddenly ‘returned’ to life, these meetings stopped.

They exchanged pleasantries and entered the restaurant.

Deputy Mayor Zhou held the highest rank and sat in the main seat.

Soon after the dinner started, Dong Xuebing realized he was the main person at the table. Deputy Mayor Zhou ate for a while and left after receiving a call. Chief Liu, Justice Li, and Hou Qing chatted and drank with him. A while later, a few more leaders joined.

Dong Xuebing was not used to such dinners. It’s been a while since he socialized with others.

Most of the staff and leaders at Dong Xuebing’s workplaces would try to avoid him when they saw him. It’s been a while since so many people surrounded him during dinner.

Of course. Dong Xuebing knew it was because of Old Yang.

Chapter 952: Meeting Yuehua!

Restaurant.

After knowing and chatting with many Lui An City leaders at the dinner, Dong Xuebing hinted to Hou Qing about what Old Yang said. After that, he called the waiter to ask for the bill. However, Deputy Mayor Zhou, who had left earlier, had footed the bill. He is a Deputy Mayor, and his rank is much higher than Dong Xuebing. He paid for the dinner because of Dong Xuebing’s relationship with Yang Zhaode. Dong Xuebing had no choice but to accept it. They left the restaurant, and he shook everyone’s hands.

“Xuebing, I will get someone to send you back.” Hou Qing offered.

“It’s alright, Sister Hou. I did not drink a lot.” Dong Xuebing replied.

Hou Qing smiled. “Alright. If traffic police stop you, say my name.”

“Ok.” Dong Xuebing laughed. “I am leaving now. Let’s meet again when I come over.”

Dong Xuebing got into his car and drove off. He stopped after a while and took out his phone to call Geng Yuehua.

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

“Hello, Secretary Yuehua?”

“Yes.”

“Where are you? Have you gone back?”

“We sent Xiao Ma to the hospital and stayed because it’s too late.

Dong Xuebing blinked. “Which hotel are you staying in?”

Geng Yuehua replied coldly. “Why are you asking?”

“I need to talk to you. Let’s talk when we meet.”

“What is it?”

“Let’s meet up first.”

“Ok. Then I will wait for you.”

Dong Xuebing got the address and entered it into his GPS before speeding.

Hotel.

Dong Xuebing went upstairs and knocked on the door.

Geng Yuehua opened it with a stern look.

They were in public, and Dong Xuebing was mindful of what he said. “Secretary Geng, am I disturbing your rest?”

“No.” Geng Yuehua stepped aside. “Come in.”

Geng Yuehua was wrapped in a towel, and her hair was dripping. She had just bathed and put on a lady’s coat over her.

Dong Xuebing entered and closed the door. “Are Secretary Ma and Mayor Shen staying next door?”

Geng Yuehua nodded and sat on the bed. “What is it you want to talk about?”

Dong Xuebing went closer. “Haha.... I missed. Let me see your stomach. Did your wound leave a scar?”

Geng Yuehua stared at Dong Xuebing. “What are you trying to do?”

Dong Xuebing pretended. “Did you forget that I know medicine? I want to see if you have recovered.”

“No need. I am fine.”

“Ah.... Just a look. What if....”

“I said I am fine, and there’s no scar.”

Dong Xuebing was helpless when Geng Yuehua started behaving like this. He could only go along with her as it would worsen if he continued.

They sat in silence in the room.

Dong Xuebing cleared his throat. “It’s cold. Can I use your bathroom to take a hot shower?”

Geng Yuehua replied monotonously. “You know where the bathroom is. Do you still need to ask?”

“Alright. I am going now.” Dong Xuebing did not mind her attitude as he was used to it.

Dong Xuebing entered the bathroom and called his mother, telling her he would return home late. After that, he took off his clothes and took a shower. Winter in the northern region is cold and dry. It felt good after a hot shower.

Dong Xuebing did not wear back his clothes and came out with a towel wrapped around his waist.

To Dong Xuebing’s surprise, Geng Yuehua had switched off the lights. It was dark, and the curtains were drawn. He could not see anything in the darkness. Only a glimmer of moonlight shone through the curtain slit, and he could barely see Geng Yuehua on the bed. She had covered herself with her blanket and looked like she was sleeping.

Dong Xuebing quickly walked over excitedly. He took off his shoes and towel before climbing onto the bed.

It felt warm under the blanket.

And it smells nice too.

Dong Xuebing looked at the back of Geng Yuehua’s head and hugged her from behind. He felt the towel and slid his hand under it. It was warm, and he moved closer to kiss her ears.

Geng Yuehua’s body moved slightly, but she did not say anything.

Dong Xuebing knew this was a sign of approval. He immediately pulled the towel and threw it aside. Geng Yuehua was naked.

Geng Yuehua still did not move.

Dong Xuebing did not say anything and started stroking and teasing her.

A few minutes later, Dong Xuebing flipped himself onto Geng Yuehua, and they kissed. After kissing, he raised her legs over his shoulders and started moving.

Ten minutes....

Half an hour....

One hour....

Dong Xuebing knew it took longer for Geng Yuehua to warm up to him. She would lay there like a dead body at the start and did not show any reaction. However, she would become more passionate as time went by. After a while, her breathing got faster, and she started sweating.

Dong Xuebing was no match for Geng Yuehua regarding lasting power. He almost could not control himself, and he quickly used REVERSE to recover.

With REVERSE, Dong Xuebing was not afraid of anything.

Finally, Geng Yuehua released a soft moan and opened her eyes. She looked at Dong Xuebing and grabbed his head to kiss him. She was kissing and gasping for air.

“Oh my god!!!!” Geng Yuehua screamed. “Oh god...”

This was the first time Dong Xuebing heard her cry during their love-making, which boosted his confidence. He leaned over and kissed her.

Geng Yuehua did not like Dong Xuebing kissing her in the past, but she reacted differently this time.

“Arghhh...”

A while later, Dong Xuebing groaned and collapsed on the bed, hugging Geng Yuehua.

Geng Yuehua was covered in sweat, and her breathing slowly calmed down. She was no longer frowning now.

Chapter 953: There's help now!

Seventh day of the Lunar New Year. Work resumed.

Dong Xuebing woke up at 6 am and drove back to Fen Zhou City from his mother's place. He did not return to his apartment and went straight to the City Party Committee Building. Many people were still in a joyous mood as they came to work.

When Dong Xuebing's car appeared, they turned and looked at him.

Dong Xuebing was used to such stares at the City Party Committee Building.

He glanced at the staff and parked his car in the Discipline Inspection parking lot.

Dong Xuebing's 4 million RMB Porsche was enough to attract stares from others. He was the youngest Deputy Division Chief in Hebei Province, and his wife was a Deputy City Mayor. He was involved in Secretary Wan's nephew, Wan Sizhao's death. After that, his daughter was kidnapped, and he did not appear at work for a long time. These were the reasons why everyone stopped and looked at him weirdly.

“Director Dong.”

“Happy New Year, Director Dong.”

“Good morning, Director Dong.”

“Xiao Dong, you are back. How was your New Year?”

Dong Xuebing returned everyone's greetings politely.

Most of the Discipline Inspection staff were unwilling to interact more with Dong Xuebing and quickly left after greeting him. A few Inspection Discipline leaders only nodded to him and did not

say anything. After all, he had been missing from work for almost one month, and it was rude not to greet him.

Dong Xuebing might have offended the City Party Committee Secretary, and everyone would try to keep a distance from him until the storm was over. Furthermore, his bad reputation had caught up to him, and everyone in Fen Zhou City knew about his nickname, the God of Plague. Everyone felt he was an oddball in the government sector and kept offending and creating trouble for others. It's better to stay away from him. Few people in Fen Zhou City dared to provoke him, and few were willing to be friends with him.

Dong Xuebing was marginalized and isolated. Sigh...

Dong Xuebing shook his head. He was used to it and did not care how others looked at him.

Do whatever you all want."

Even if I am marginalized, I can still live happily.

Dong Xuebing had a hoodlum character and did not feel pressured at all. He thought nothing about it and went upstairs with a smile.

Everyone saw him and was impressed with his mentality.

It might be easy to laugh it off, but not many can do it.

Inspection First Office.

Director Office.

It's been a while since Dong Xuebing returned to his office. He checked his drawers and bookshelf and sat at his desk, drinking tea.

After a while, he started to think about his work after he was posted here. He had started work in the Discipline Inspection a while, and his results were considered good. Although his interpersonal relationship with others was terrible and had offended many people, he did not leave anything others could use against him. This was enough for him. As long as he made no mistakes, no one could do anything to him. All he needs to do now is to get more results. He still hopes to get promoted.

There's no rush, and he got to wait for the right opportunity.

Knock, knock. Someone knocked on the door.

Dong Xuebing puts down his teacup. "Come in."

It was Luo Haiting. She was the only one in Fen Zhou City Government that dared to go near Dong Xuebing.

"Director, I wish you a Happy New Year." Luo Haiting wore a pair of tight red pants and a small jacket. She still likes to doll up exaggeratedly.

"Thank you. Happy New Year to you too. Have a seat." Dong Xuebing gestured.

Luo Haiting sat in front of him. "How's your Goddaughter? Everyone was so worried for you."

Dong Xuebing smiled. "She has returned and is fine now."

“That’s great.” Luo Haiting took out a stack of documents. “These are the reports and meeting minutes when you are not around.”

Dong Xuebing started looking through the documents. “Did anything happen these few days?”

“Not really. Our Discipline Inspection is not busy during Lunar New Year compared to other departments.”

The reports did not state anything worth noticing, and Dong Xuebing nodded. It’s good to be peaceful, as he has been too busy recently. He wants to stay low for a few days until things calm down.

“Oh, Xuebing. I forgot to tell you something.”

“What?”

“Zhan Guiping, Deputy Secretary Zhan had returned to work before New Year.”

“Oh.”

“He wants to meet you when you return.”

“Alright. I will go to his office now. Is he around?”

“I saw his car on my way to work. He should be in his office.”

Dong Xuebing nodded and left for Deputy Secretary Zhan’s office.

“Come in.” A man said.

Dong Xuebing entered the office and smiled. “Happy New Year, Secretary Zhan.”

Zhan Guiping smiled when he saw Dong Xuebing. He got up and walked over to receive him.

“Haha.... Xuebing.”

Dong Xuebing was surprised. “Please don’t stand up.”

Zhan Guiping shook Dong Xuebing’s hand. “I heard what happened to you when I returned to work. I tried calling you but could not get through. Rourou and I were worried. It’s good to see you again.”

Dong Xuebing replied. “Thanks for your concern. I am fine. It just took a while to save my Goddaughter. Oh, how is Rourou’s waist?”

Zhan Guiping smiled wider and patted Dong Xuebing’s shoulder. They sat on the sofa. “She has recovered, and she is in good condition.”

Dong Xuebing knew Zhan Guiping was very happy. “Can she walk now?”

Zhan Guiping nodded. “She can even run. Xuebing, thank you for helping us contact the best doctor at the PLA hospital. That professor’s surgery was a success, and we stayed in Beijing for a few days. Rourou could move her toes days after the surgery, and she recovered fast. She can walk and run now, and the doctor says she has fully recovered. She needs to avoid strenuous exercise, and my family and I are grateful for your help.”

Dong Xuebing waved his hand. "What are you saying? All I did was contact the doctor and did not do much." He paused for a second. "Furthermore, Rourou was injured at the hospital because of me."

Zhan Guiping interrupted. "Don't mention that again. It was not your fault. She would be gone if you had not risked your life to push her out. You are our family's savior, and my wife asked me to thank you properly. She also wants to invite you to dinner at our house. After Rourou could walk, she kept asking about you."

Dong Xuebing smiled. "Ok. Then I shall trouble Aunty someday."

Zhan Guiping laughed. "Hahaha... Alright. I will ask her to prepare a feast, and we can drink some alcohol."

Dong Xuebing had one less worry after Zhan Rourou recovered. All this while, he felt guilty and blamed himself for asking the hospital staff to retrieve the equipment and medicine. If everyone had evacuated, Zhan Rourou would not have been injured.

However, Zhan Guiping did not think like this. Although his wife scolded Dong Xuebing, he still felt Dong Xuebing's decision was correct. He would make the same decision if it were him. They are Party Members and Civil Servants and must put civilians first. Furthermore, Rourou had recovered, and there's no reason to blame Dong Xuebing. His family had owed Dong Xuebing a huge favor, and his wife was also grateful. They were chatting yesterday and felt Rourou's name was not good. When the hospital collapsed, she was paralyzed after getting hit by falling debris. Look at Dong Xuebing. He was buried in the hospital and could still escape after many days.

What does this mean?

This means the difference between them.

Zhan Rourou was dumbfounded. It was not that she was weak. It was Dong Xuebing who had a strong will to live. Who can escape unscathed in that situation?

Only Dong Xuebing can. He survived and was still unhurt.

This was not something an ordinary person could do. Dong Xuebing is built differently.

Dong Xuebing and Zhan Guiping got along well.

They chatted from around 9 am to 11 am.

Zhan Guiping's return to work was a confidence boost for Dong Xuebing. With their relationship, he would have a great help within the Commission for Discipline Inspection. That's what he needed the most now.

Translator's notes: 'Rou' means gentle.

Chapter 954: A charity fundraising event

Commission for Discipline Inspection.

Dong Xuebing had lunch with Zhan Guiping, and the other staff at the cafeteria were surprised.

"Why is Secretary Zhan so close to Director Dong?"

"Really? When Director Dong was appointed, Secretary Zhan was on long leave."

“That’s right. This should be Secretary Zhan’s first meeting with Director Dong. Could they know each other previously?”

“Director Dong had offended Secretary Wan. Why is Secretary Zhan still mixing around with him?”

Everyone, including some Discipline Inspection leaders, was puzzled.

Dong Xuebing returned to his office after lunch. He read all the documents and meeting minutes and signed them. He was away from work for many days, but there were no major hiccups. However, government agencies had rules to follow, and as the leader, he had lots of work. He had to read and sign dozens of documents.

One hour....

Two hours....

At around 3 pm, Dong Xuebing’s phone rang.

Dong Xuebing looked at the caller ID, and it was Xie Huilan.

“Hello, Huilan.” Dong Xuebing answered.

“Haha... what are you doing?”

Dong Xuebing replied helplessly. “Don’t talk about it. I had been signing off documents for over two hours. My hand is numbed from signing. Have you arrived at your unit?”

“I reached this morning, and I saw your car. You are earlier than me.”

“Oh, what is it?”

“Nothing. Can’t I call you?”

“No. You can call whenever you want.”

“Haha.... I missed you, so I called. Oh, are you free tonight?”

“See, you need me for something. I am free. Why?”

“Go back and change. We are attending a Charity fundraising event.”

“Fundraising? Who organized it?”

“A leader from the higher-ups. The event is around 7 pm, and it’s for the earthquake victims. It will be a ball, and there will be an auction. The higher-ups had issued a directive. All City Leaders must attend.”

Dong Xuebing blinked. “I am not a City Leader. Why must I go?”

Xie Huilan smiled. “You will be accompanying me. Haha.... The City Leaders would bring their spouses to such events, and I must bring my little husband with me.”

“I will get mad if you call me little again.”

"Fine.... You are my big husband. Go home and wait for me tonight."

"Let's talk about it later. I don't like such activities."

"The Party Secretary and Mayor will be attending, and other cities' leaders were invited. It's good to go and know more people. It would be helpful for your future development. Alright, it's settled. You will be attending with me."

"Alright, alright. Let's talk later."

"Ok. Bye."

"Bye."

"Wait.... haha.... I want a kiss first."

"You do this to me every time."

"Are you going to kiss or not?"

Dong Xuebing slapped his forehead. "I think I owe you in my previous life." He kissed his phone. "Are you satisfied?"

"Not bad. You should be praised for your performance."

"You win." Dong Xuebing laughed. "I still got work to do. Bye."

"Don't forget to return home early later."

"I know. I will cook dinner. Come back and eat."

"Haha.... Great. I can't wait to eat your food."

After hanging up, Dong Xuebing shook his head. He was not interested in these events. He did not mind donating to the earthquake victims or attending the event alone. He could attend as the Discipline Inspection First Office Director. But attending with Xie Huilan means he would be known as Deputy City Mayor Xie's husband. He does not like this introduction.

However, how can he not go after what she said?

Dong Xuebing had never appeared with Xie Huilan in Fen Zhou City. He had to attend this event no matter what.

Ring... ring... ring.... The phone rang again.

Dong Xuebing answered. "Hello, who is it?"

"You don't have my number?!" Luan Xiaoping asked.

"Oh, Mum. I am busy and did not look at the caller ID."

"Watch your health and don't overwork."

"I know. What is it?"

"I am calling to tell you that Old Yang and I will go to Fen Zhou City for a Charity event tonight. Are you and Huilan attending?"

"We are attending." Dong Xuebing replied. "Why are you all attending?"

Luan Xiaoping replied. "We received the invitation during New Year."

"Oh, why didn't you tell me yesterday?"

"You went out to socialize and come home so late. When I woke up, you had left. How am I going to tell you?"

"I am busy."

"Anyway, Old Yang and I will be going tonight, and we will visit your place after the event. I want to see how Huilan is doing. You two are always busy, and I am afraid you all don't know how to take care of your baby. Pregnancy is a critical period. Do you know how to care for Huilan? Do you need me to go and help?"

"Mum, I can look after her. You still need to look after Qianqian."

"That's right. Be careful."

"I know. See you tonight."

"Ok. Remember to put on more clothes. It will be cold at night."

Luan Xiaoping was naggy, but Dong Xuebing knew she was concerned for him. He looked at the time and continued working.

Around 5 pm.

Dong Xuebing stretched and stacked the documents neatly before leaving. He went to a supermarket for groceries and went home to prepare dinner for Huilan. As a Deputy Mayor, she spent most of her time at work and seldom could return home on time. She returns home later than Dong Xuebing most of the time. She should be back when he finishes cooking.

Charity fundraising event.

Dong Xuebing had to attend but did not think about how much to donate.

Dong Xuebing had made one to two thousand RMB donations to keep a low profile. Now, his asset is exposed, and he cannot continue making one to two thousand donations.

Chapter 955: Cloudy water

The sky had turned dark.

City Party Committee family quarters.

Xie Huilan returned, and Dong Xuebing called her to the dining table for dinner.

"Here, have a taste and tell me what you think."

"Ok. Haha.... Not bad."

“Tell me how good it is.”

“It smells and tastes good. My husband’s dinner is still the best.”

“Is it better than the restaurants?”

“Yes. Much better.”

“Hmm.... I like what you say. Hurry up and eat.”

Xie Huilan continued eating when Dong Xuebing asked. “Oh, how much should we donate later at the event?”

Xie Huilan looked at Dong Xuebing. “I think ten to twenty thousand RMB is enough. I know what you are thinking. Most people are not making a lot of money. If you donated a large amount, they might talk behind your back. This event is more about politics. Most of Hebei Province City’s leaders and top businessmen will be around. As civil servants, we will lead this fundraising, and the businessmen will make the most donations. Also, the stars of this event are the Cities’ No. 1 and No. 2. You will be taking the attention away from them if you donate more than them.”

Dong Xuebing thought about it and nodded. “You are right.”

“Hurry up and eat. You still have to help me pick a dress.”

“It’s only fundraising. Are you going to wear an evening gown? A suit will do.”

“Suits also have different colors and designs. Help me choose.”

Women are troublesome when they are going out. Xie Huilan finally chose a suit after picking it for a long time. To Dong Xuebing, all female suits look the same, but he still says, “This looks good on you.”

Both left for the event.

They were not driving their Porsche or Land Rover and went in Xie Huilan’s unit government car.

Hotel entrance.

They got out of the car and took the elevator to the ballroom on the top floor. Fen Zhou City usually holds large-scale events at this hotel. When Dong Xuebing and Xie Huilan arrived, most people had entered. A few hotel and Party Committee Office staff were outside, checking the invitation cards. However, Xie Huilan does not need to show her invitation card.

Inside the ballroom.

Around thirty people were in the ballroom. Most were Fen Zhou City, other neighboring cities’ leaders, and businessmen. Some celebrities, famous calligraphers, and authors were present too.

When Xie Huilan enters, she immediately becomes the center of attention.

Dong Xuebing was used to Xie Huilan getting all the attention. After all, she is too beautiful. Even after knowing her for years and getting married, he is still surprised by her beauty. She’s too charming.

“Mayor Xie, you are here.” A businessman walked over to greet Xie Huilan.

“Mr. Song. Haha....” Xie Huilan shook hands with him. “It’s been a while. How are you?”

“Thanks to you, I am doing good.” Mr. Song looked at Dong Xuebing and shook his hand. “You must be Mayor Xie’s husband, Director Dong. Nice to meet you.”

Dong Xuebing shook his hands. “Nice to meet you too.”

A few people came over to greet them. Xie Huilan introduced them to Dong Xuebing. Of course, she did not need to introduce Fen Zhou City’s leaders. Anyone who worked in Fen Zhou City government knows Dong Xuebing. Maybe some might not know Xie Huilan, but everyone had heard of Dong Xuebing.

The City’s Commission for Discipline Inspection Secretary, He Shuien, and his wife were there.

The City’s Commission for Discipline Inspection Deputy Secretary Zhan Guiping and his wife were there.

Luo Haiting was also there without her husband.

“Xuebing.” Mrs. Zhan saw Dong Xuebing and walked over to speak to him.

Zhan Guiping smiled and chatted with Xie Huilan.

After a while, all the VIPs start arriving.

The first to arrive was Fen Zhou City Mayor Zhong Zhengwei. He is in his fifties and combed his hair neatly.

The following person was Fen Zhou City Party Secretary Wan Fanglei.

This was not Dong Xuebing’s first time meeting Party Secretary Wan Fanglei. Secretary Wan had visited him after he was hospitalized during the earthquake. They were on good terms and had fallen out because of Wan Sizhao’s incident.

“Mayor Xie, you are here.” Mayor Zhong Zhengwei looked at Xie Huilan and smiled.

Xie Huilan held Dong Xuebing’s arms and walked over. “Mayor Zhong, where is your wife?”

Zhong Zhengwei smiled. “She caught the flu and could not attend. This must be your husband.”

Dong Xuebing shook his hands with both hands. “Mayor Zhong.”

Dong Xuebing could tell Zhong Zhengwei and Xie Huilan got along well. At least on the surface.

Wan Fanglei and his wife did not even look at Xie Huilan and Dong Xuebing. They went straight to other cities’ leaders. Wan Fanglei’s wife did glance at Dong Xuebing emotionlessly before looking away. Not showing any emotions was a form of attitude. Many Fen Zhou City leaders saw that and started worrying. It seemed Wan Sizhao’s incident had caused Secretary Wan and his wife to have hatred for Dong Xuebing and Xie Huilan.

Zhan Guiping had heard about it and was worried for Dong Xuebing. After all, offending the top leader was not a joking matter.

When the fundraising event was about to start, the door opened again.

Yang Zhaode and Luan Xiaoping entered the ballroom slowly.

A leader who knows Old Yang went up to him. "Mayor Yang, you are late."

"Haha.... It seems like I must use the traffic as an excuse." Yang Zhaode laughed.

Yang Zhaode is one of the top leaders in the ballroom, and Wan Fanglei and other Fen Zhou City leaders smiled and nodded to him. Old Yang was formerly Fen Zhou City's Organization Department Chief, and they have known each other for years.

Mayor Zhong Zhengwei smiled and went up to Yang Zhaode. "Mayor Yang, this must be your wife. You are so lucky. Do you want to come over to my place later at night?"

Yang Zhaode smiled. "Sure. We still have not eaten dinner."

Luan Xiaoping smiled at Zhong Zhengwei and looked around.

"Madam Luan, are you looking for someone?" Zhong Zhengwei asked.

Yang Zhaode replied. "She is looking for Huilan and Xuebing."

Zhong Zhengwei pointed. "They are over there."

Luan Xiaoping looked in that direction and walked over. "Xuebing, Huilan, over here."

Xuebing, Huilan?!

Is she referring to Dong Xuebing and Xie Huilan?

Many people were puzzled. Why did Lui An City Mayor's wife look for these two people instead of speaking to other leaders at their level? Also, why is she addressing them so affectionally?

Dong Xuebing saw his mother and waved. "Mum."

Xie Huilan narrowed her eyes and greeted. "Mum."

Luan Xiaoping nodded and held Xie Huilan's hand. She glanced at her tummy and asked. "Did you eat any spicy food?"

"No. I stopped eating those."

"Good. Don't eat spicy food and drink more milk."

"I know."

Mum?!

Everyone was shocked.

Zhan Guiping, Luo Haiting, and all other Fen Zhou City leaders were stunned.

Mum? Mayor Yang's wife is Director Dong and Mayor Xie's mother?!

How is this possible?! How come no one had said anything about this?

Most Lui An City leaders only heard about it yesterday, let alone Fen Zhou City's leaders.

Everyone exchanged looks.

Only Wan Fanglei and Zhong Zhengwei were not surprised. They knew about it a long time ago.

Seeing Luan Xiaoping talking to Xie Huilan, Yang Zhaode waved Dong Xuebing over. "Xuebing, let me introduce a few friends to you."

"Ok." Dong Xuebing walked over.

Yang Zhaode had worked in Fen Zhou City for many years. Although his relationship with his former colleagues was not close after he left, it was better than Xie Huilan and Dong Xuebing's network. It's better for them to know more people to help with their work.

Luo Haiting inhaled deeply. No wonder she finds Luan Xiaoping familiar. She had met her before in Yan Tai County. It was Director Dong's mother. So, Director Dong's mother left Yan Tai County for Lui An City and married Mayor Yang. Director Dong's mouth was tight. How can he hide this for so long? She can imagine what would happen tomorrow. Everyone in Fen Zhou City Government would know about it, and people would need to consider if they were to go against Dong Xuebing or Xie Huilan.

Everyone looked at Dong Xuebing weirdly and understood why Yang Zhaode and his wife were willing to travel so far to attend this event. They want to announce to everyone that Dong Xuebing is their child.

Wan Fanglei's wife frowned.

Those leaders who tried to avoid Dong Xuebing were deep in their thoughts.

Many people were dumbfounded. Director Dong was indeed a God of Plague. He was just posted to the City and caused so much trouble. When is he going to stop?

The Charity event starts.

Fen Zhou City's TV station's number one host walked up the stage and broke the awkwardness. "Good evening, leaders and guests."

Everyone returned to their seats.

Chapter 956: You dare to compete with my wife?!

Hotel, Ballroom.

Charity fundraising events were almost identical, especially those with heavy political influence. It started with the leaders talking about the damages caused by the earthquake and the hardships civilians were facing. After that, they would start the fundraising or auction to raise funds. TV station and newspaper reporters were there, taking lots of photos.

After a long speech, the fundraising began.

This event still followed the traditional way of fundraising.

The pretty host announced. "We are starting the auction now. The first item up for auction is author Teacher Zhang's second novel's original manuscript.

Dong Xuebing glanced at Teacher Zhang, who was seated in the audience. He had not read his novel but had heard of it. Teacher Zhang should be a Fen Zhou City native and was invited to attend this event.

"I bid 1,000!" A businessman shouted.

“5,000!” Another businessman shouted.

“10,000 RMB!” One more person joined the bidding.

“I bid 20,000 RMB!” City Party Secretary Wan Fanglei said.

This manuscript was not worth 20,000 RMB. After all, it’s not a bestseller. However, the purpose of this auction was to donate to the earthquake victims. Even if Wan Fanglei threw a cigarette box onto the stage, it could be sold for tens of thousands. After Wan Fanglei bid, the businessmen stopped bidding. No one dares to compete with the City Party Secretary.

Wan Fanglei won the manuscript for 20,000 RMB. The reporters immediately took pictures of him collecting the manuscript.

A short while later, the second item was put up for auction. It was a painting by an artist at the event. It was specially painted for this event.

“10,000!”

“30,000 RMB!”

“50,000 RMB.”

“100,000 RMB!”

“150,000 RMB.”

In the end, this painting, worth 10,000 RMB, was sold for 200,000 RMB. This was because no leaders had bid for it, and the few businessmen competed among themselves. Wang Fanglei and the other civil servants could not make large donations due to their low salaries. They were here to lead, and most fundraising depended on the businessmen. In return for their donations, Fen Zhou City Government would offer some subsidies or help them.

Third item....

Tenth item....

Twentieth item....

Many items were auctioned off quickly.

Yang Zhaode bought a handcrafted ornament for 20,000 RMB.

City Mayor Zhong Zhengwei bid for a hand-sewn doll made by child victims of the earthquake for 18,000 RMB.

Other Fen Zhou City leaders bought small items at the auction. Luo Haiting spent 3,000 RMB on a small item.

Dong Xuebing saw Xie Huilan hesitating and asked. “What are you waiting for? We should also bid something.”

Xie Huilan smiled. “I am waiting for a calligraphy piece. Eh? It’s here.”

The host announced. “The next item is our Fen Zhou City Mayor Zhong’s calligraphy. Mayor Zhong is a calligraphy master, and his works are beautiful.”

Zhong Zhengwei smiled and interrupted. "It's not that good. Stop flattering me and start the auction."

Dong Xuebing understood why Huilan was not bidding on anything. She was waiting for Mayor Zhong's calligraphy. Although he could not tell how good it was, winning this calligraphy piece would pull them closer to Mayor Zhong. Sigh.... Xie Huilan thought much further than Dong Xuebing and planned everything she did. He had a conflict with Wan Fanglei, and they could only join Mayor Zhong's side.

Xie Huilan wanted that calligraphy piece, and other people had the same idea.

The ballroom was tense before the auction for the calligraphy piece started. The businessmen were raring to bid.

"I bid 50,000 RMB!"

"80,000 RMB!"

"100,000 RMB!"

"150,000 RMB!"

The mayor's calligraphy is different. That artist's painting was only sold for 200,000 RMB, and within a minute after the auction started, bids for Mayor Zhong's calligraphy reached 350,000 RMB. This was because of his title. This piece might not have been sold for 500 RMB if not for his title.

Dong Xuebing said. "It's already 350,000 RMB. You said we should not bid higher than the City Party Secretary."

"Haha... it depends on the situation." Xie Huilan raised her hand. "360,000 RMB."

Everyone looked at Xie Huilan when she raised her hand. The businessmen were shocked when they saw a Deputy City Mayor making such a high bid. 360,000 RMB was a civil servant's several years' salary. The businessmen were savvy. They could compete with other businessmen but do not want to compete with Mayor Xie. They would instead give up than offend her.

Mayor Zhong looked at Xie Huilan and smiled.

360,000 RMB for an ordinary calligraphy piece was astronomical.

Song Fei raised the bid without any hesitation. "400,000 RMB."

Xie Huilan looked at him. "430,000 RMB."

"500,000 RMB." Song Fei made a higher bid. He seemed determined to win it.

Everyone frowned and looked at Song Fei. They thought to themselves, do you have nothing better else to do? Mayor Xie made a bid, yet you are trying to outbid her?! This is only a charity event. Do you need to be so competitive?

But Song Fei had his ideas. He is a businessman dealing with construction materials. His business in the south was doing well, and he was here to open the market. He needs an opportunity. Although he won a few projects for rebuilding after the earthquake, he was not satisfied. He likes to take risks. He heard Secretary Wan has conflicts with Xie Huilan and Dong Xuebing and got an idea.

This is Mayor Zhong's calligraphy, and the more he had to get it. He could please Mayor Zhong and Secretary Wan if he can win it. He does not care about Yang Zhaode's relationship with Xie Huilan and Dong Xuebing or Xie Huilan's position. With the Mayor and Party Secretary supporting him, who cares about them? A Deputy Mayor cannot stop him from developing his business in Fen Zhou City.

Song Fei bids without hesitation and does not care what Xie Huilan thinks.

The whole ballroom was looking at both of them.

Xie Huilan narrowed her eyes and said. "520,000 RMB.

Song Fei immediately increases the bid. "550,000 RMB."

It was tense, and everyone stopped talking.

The host could feel the tension and said. "Mr. Song bids 550,000 RMB. Any higher bids?"

Dong Xuebing was looking terrible. "Who is this person?"

Xie Huilan replied. "I think he is a building construction material businessman. He dares to bid."

This event was insignificant compared to the nationwide fundraising, and most guests were ordinary businessmen from within the City. A few hundred thousand RMB was the best they could donate. That's why 550,000 RMB was a large bid.

Dong Xuebing said softly. "This guy is ignorant."

Xie Huilan smiled. "Since he likes it so much, let him have it."

"Let him have it? Bullshit!" Dong Xuebing was mad. "I will not allow him to have it!"

Xie Huilan was amused. "You are acting up again. Let's forget it."

"No!" Dong Xuebing might give in if it was him. But Song Fei was competing with his wife. He cannot accept it.

You dare to compete with my wife?!

Go to hell!"

The host was about to announce Song Fei as the winner when Dong Xuebing shouted. "1 million!"
Silence.

1 million RMB?! Are you mad?

Xie Huilan shook her head and did not say anything.

Song Fei frowned and looked at Dong Xuebing. "1.02 million RMB!"

Before everyone gasped, Dong Xuebing shouted. "2 million RMB!"

Song Fei was angry. "2.01 million!"

Dong Xuebing shouted without any hesitation. "3 million RMB!"

Song Fei increased his bids by ten thousand RMB, while Dong Xuebing increased them by a million. It's clear who was the winner.

Song Fei was shocked and did not make any higher bids. Are you crazy?! Are you a civil servant?! 3 million RMB?! You are richer than me! Which civil servant is so rich?! Three million RMB was way off his budget.

In the end, the calligraphy was sold for 3 million RMB.

Dong Xuebing smiled and went forward with Xie Huilan to receive it.

Everyone exchanged looks and inhaled deeply.

Only Fen Zhou City leaders were not surprised by this outcome and looked at Song Fei speechlessly.

Do you know who you are dealing with? He is the God of Plague!

Dong Xuebing's asset was worth over 100 million RMB in cash. Even if you are wealthy and have a few hundred million RMB worth of assets, do you have it in cash?! Most of your assets should be fixed assets or bank credits. He can even spend thirty million on that calligraphy. How are you going to compete?

You must be crazy.

Why did you provoke him for no reason?!

Chapter 957: He is just a bit wicked

The auction had started for more than an hour.

The ballroom was tense. Mayor Zhong Zhengwei's calligraphy piece was sold at 3 million RMB, and he smiled. He nodded at Dong Xuebing and Xie Huilan with appreciation. His item was the most expensive in the auction and was more than ten times the artist's painting. It made him proud.

Dong Xuebing walked off the stage with the calligraphy.

When Xie Huilan walked past Zhong Zhengwei, she smiled. "Mayor Zhong, I will frame and hang it in our house."

Zhong Zhengwei smiled. "My calligraphy is not worth so much."

Dong Xuebing interrupted. "Your calligraphy is priceless."

Zhong Zhengwei laughed. "This flattery.... Haha.... I am glad you two like it."

"I like calligraphy too." Xie Huilan smiled. "How about I go to your place to learn from you another day?"

Zhong Zhengwei replied. "Sure. We can learn from each other.

They chatted for a while before returning to their seats.

Some connections are formed like this.

Luo Haiting and many other people were speechless. Only Director Dong is willing to spend 3 million RMB on a piece of ordinary calligraphy.

After getting back to their seats, Dong Xuebing asked softly. "The money is well spent as you get closer to Mayor Zhong. Don't talk about not donating more than the City Party Secretary. That's all

bullshit. It's all about building networks and contributing to the earthquake rebuilding effects." He was not afraid of spending money. Unlike those businessmen, he had no concept of money.

Xie Huilan glanced at Dong Xuebing. "I will deal with you when we get home."

"Hehe.... I helped you. Why are you going to deal with me?"

"Haha.... Is that helping me? You are just trying to win."

"Who asked that Song Fei want to compete with my wife?"

"I think you can never change your foul temper forever."

"It's not about my temper. I can lose, but I cannot allow my wife to lose."

"Did you smear honey on your lips? So sweet. Let me taste how sweet it is when we reach home."

"Eh, softer. It's embarrassing if someone hears that."

The other items were auctioned off without any trouble. However, after Dong Xuebing's 3 million RMB bid, all other items paled in comparison. They were sold for around a few hundred thousand RMB. Businessmen were shrewd and would not pay more than their limit. If Dong Xuebing were a businessman, his 3 million RMB bid would not be a surprise. However, he is a civil servant, and many reporters took pictures of him and Huilan.

The auction ended.

The total amount raised was almost ten million RMB.

City Party Secretary Wan Fanglei went up the stage to address the closing. He thanked everyone's contribution to Fen Zhou City and promised to spend every cent on rebuilding after the disaster. A list of the spending would be available to the public.

Dismissed.

Everyone stood up and left.

Dong Xuebing went to that beautiful host.

The host laughed. "Director Dong, thank you for donating to the disaster relief efforts.

Dong Xuebing smiled. "It's my duty as a part of Fen Zhou City. How do I make payments?"

"I will give you a bank account." The host took out a card and gave it to Dong Xuebing. Other people do not need it as their amount was only tens of thousands. Some even paid before they left. However, Dong Xuebing got to pay 3 million RMB and could not use his credit card. He could only use bank transfers. "Transfer the amount to this account. Our government set up this special bank account for this fundraising. It's transparent."

"Alright. I will transfer the money tomorrow."

After saying this, Dong Xuebing glanced at Song Fei before leaving with Xie Huilan. Luan Xiaoping had wanted to stay at Dong Xuebing's place, but Yang Zhaode and Zhong Zhengwei were going for dinner. So, he and his wife returned home.

At the same time.

Hotel's entrance. Song Fei was in a bad mood as he looked at the taillights of Dong Xuebing's car. All his plans tonight did not succeed.

Everyone was giving Song Fei weird looks.

Song Fei felt uncomfortable and wondered why everyone was looking at him.

"Old Song, are you leaving?" A businessman appeared behind Song Fei. "I am not driving today. Can you give me a lift?"

Song Fei forced a smile and nodded. "Sure, Old Zhang. Let's go. We are staying at the same hotel anyway."

Both men looked like they were close, and they got into the car.

Inside the car, Mr. Zhang looked at Song Fei. "Song Fei ah.... You.... Sigh...."

Song Fei looked at him. "What do you want to say?"

Mr. Zhang hesitated for a few seconds and said. "Why did you go against that Dong Xuebing earlier?"

Song Fei shook his head. "I knew you were going to ask about this. I have no intention of going against him. I only want to do something for my business. After a disaster, construction materials are in high demand. This is an opportunity for me to know Fen Zhou City's No. 1 and 2. With their help, I can establish a firm footing here. My business in the south is facing some cashflow issues, and I need to inject new funds."

Mr. Zhang sighed. "I know what you are thinking. Networking is important to your business, but you should not offend Dong Xuebing."

Song Fei was puzzled. "What's wrong with Dong Xuebing? I knew he had outstanding contributions during the earthquake, but he is now in the Commission for Discipline Inspection. He has nothing to do with my business. I thought you were telling me not to go against Mayor Xie. Due to my business, I cannot afford to think so much."

"You are new here and do not understand the situation." Mr. Zhang smiled wearily.

"We have been friends for many years, and I need to tell you this. Do you believe me when I say in Fen Zhou City, more people know who Dong Xuebing is than who Mayor Xie is?"

"That's for sure. He saved so many people during the earthquake. Who doesn't know him?"

"You still don't get what I mean. Most Fen Zhou City civil servants would rather offend Mayor Xie than provoke Dong Xuebing."

“Why?”

“Dong Xuebing is notorious in Fen Zhou City.”

“Are you saying that he will come after me?”

“I did not say that.” Mr. Zhang replied. “I am just reminding you, and.... Sigh.... Why did you fight with him over that calligraphy? That was unnecessary.”

Song Fei was stubborn. “I feel there’s a need. At least I can show my loyalty to Secretary Wan. I heard Secretary Wan does not like Dong Xuebing.”

“That’s their political rivalry. Why are you getting involved?”

“How will I make money if I don’t get involved? I should have increased the bid by a few hundred thousand, and Dong Xuebing would give up.” Song Fei regretted it.

Mr. Zhang looked at Song Fei. “Are you serious? Based on my understanding of him, he would not hesitate a second even if you bid 30 million RMB.”

Song Fei was shocked. “Are you sure? Oh, why is he so wealthy?”

“He’s more than wealthy.” Mr. Song explained. “Do you know how much asset he has? He declared his asset when he was appointed, and did you know how much money he has? One hundred million RMB in cash! Do you have 100 million RMB cash? I don’t have it, but he has. I heard he won the lottery jackpot before, which was confirmed by the City Party Committee and Commission for Discipline Inspection.”

“100 million?!” Song Fei took a deep breath. “No wonder a civil servant like him dares to make such a large bid.”

Mr. Zhang advised. “Old Song, Dong Xuebing is not someone you can offend. I know you want to know the City Party Secretary and thought nothing about offending a Discipline Commission leader. However, Dong Xuebing is different. He is like a ticking timebomb in Fen Zhou City and could blow up anytime. Until now, not many people have been willing to offend him. Even the City leaders are staying away from him. Why are you putting up a strong front?”

Song Fei frowned. “Even the City leaders don’t dare to offend him?! Is he that powerful?”

“It’s not they don’t dare to offend. They are unwilling to offend him unless necessary. Do you know his nickname in Fen Zhou City? The God of Plague. Didn’t you notice those lower-rank civil servants stayed away from him earlier? Don’t you wonder what the reason is? His mother is a City Mayor’s wife, and his wife is Mayor Xie. Everyone should be trying to suck up to him. But they did not.”

Mr. Zhang lowered his voice. “Of course, the main reason is his way of doing things. He is wicked and does not go according to the rules. You will be caught off-guard. This is my warning to you. Forget it if you don’t believe me.”

“Alright. I will take note.”

“Good.”

Song Fei agreed to take note but still thought nothing about it in his heart. He is a risk-taker and would not give up easily. Dong Xuebing and Xie Huilan.... One is a Discipline Inspection leader, and the other is a Deputy City Mayor overseeing the Ministry of Education. They have nothing to do with his business. If he can get into the City Party Secretary’s good books, he is not afraid of anybody.

He is willing to do anything to make money.

What can Dong Xuebing do? Tear his contract or shut down his company?!

However, Song Fei would never imagine that all these were something Dong Xuebing would do.

Chapter 958: This is what I am looking for

Home.

Dong Xuebing and Xie Huilan returned home.

Dong Xuebing stretched and yawned when he entered. “Ah.... I am so tired. Our results are not bad today. Uncle Yang and my mother went to Mayor Zhong’s place for dinner. They should be putting in some kind words for us. When Old Yang worked in Fen Zhou City, he was close to Mayor Zhong. I had offended Party Secretary and had bought Mayor Zhong’s calligraphy. We should join Mayor Zhong’s faction in the future. We can save a lot of trouble with his help. At least someone can back us if anything happens.”

Xie Huilan laughed. “3 million RMB for a calligraphy is quite expensive.”

Dong Xuebing thought nothing about it. “We have the means and don’t need to worry about the amount. Others don’t even have this advantage.”

“We stood out too much earlier, and it’s not good.”

“I understand. Do you think I want the attention?”

“I think so. Haha....”

“Stop. If that Song Fei did not compete with me, I would not increase the bid to 3 million RMB.”

“You are right. I met Song Fei once, and he is too money-minded. I don’t understand why the Construction Committee appointed him as the supplier for the earthquake rebuilding. From what happened earlier, this person is too greedy. He is willing to do anything for profit. We might have bought that painting for other motives, but it’s different from him.”

Dong Xuebing nodded. “He tried to disgrace my wife in public, and I will not let him off. I will investigate and get back the 3 million RMB from him.”

“Don’t do that. Are you trying to make things worse?”

“Don’t interfere. I know what to do. This person should be taught a lesson, or he would think we are pushovers.”

Dong Xuebing would return kindness and respect if the other party respected him. If anyone dares to go against him, he will not hold back. F**k! My wife and I did not offend you, and you want to treat us as stepping stones to please the City Mayor and Party Secretary?! Stepping all over us to make money?!

“What you should do now is focus on your work. Stop thinking about finding trouble with others.”

“Our Commission for Discipline Inspection doesn’t have much work. I had missed many days of work, and all I did today was sign off the documents. I don’t have any missions at all.”

“If you don’t have missions, go and find one. You should not sit there and wait.” Xie Huilan replied. “Many corruptions and bribery cases were initiated by Discipline Inspection staff. You will be too passive if you wait for a complaint to come in. Don’t you want to investigate cases?”

“You are right. If I can solve a case, it would add to my achievements.”

“Achievements? Other than this, you don’t have anything else in your head.”

“I am joking about it. Alright. I will go and investigate.”

“You are going now? It’s after 9 pm.”

“Anyway, I am just going out for a while. Go to bed first.”

“You.... Fine. Come home early.”

Dong Xuebing has been handling all sorts of troubles since he started working in the Discipline Inspection. He dealt with troubles with his colleague and even got involved in Foreign Affairs. Looking back, he had not focused on his duties and had no results. He will never get promoted if this carries on. Xie Huilan had reminded him, and he started thinking of how he should do his job. The auction and political rivalries were unimportant.

Dong Xuebing left home.

He did not go downstairs immediately. He smoked a cigarette in the corridor, thinking of his next step. After thinking for a while, he snubbed his cigarette and looked at the newspaper box outside his door. It’s not easy to investigate corruption and bribery cases. It was hard to gather evidence even if he had clues. That’s why he decided to use FORWARD again. It’s been a while since he used FORWARD. This ability would speed up time on an object. He could receive tomorrow’s or the day after tomorrow’s newspapers and will know what will happen. Previously, he learned about earthquakes through this ability. However, this ability requires too much of his power. One minute can only bring forward the time by one day.

Let me try it today.

I will move one day forward, and if it doesn't work, I will move two or three more days.

Dong Xuebing had saved sufficient time to bring forward time. He opened the newspaper box in front of his house, and it was empty. He closed it and placed his hand on it.

FORWARD!

One second....

Ten seconds....

Twenty seconds....

The box's time moved forward quickly

Dong Xuebing deactivated FORWARD after thirty seconds.

It was around half a day to morning, and he didn't need to use one minute. Thirty seconds was enough.

Dong Xuebing exhaled and opened the box.

A newspaper was lying in the box, which was supposed to be empty. Dong Xuebing checked the date, and it was tomorrow's newspaper.

He immediately grabbed it and went downstairs.

Party Committee family quarters.

Garden.

Dong Xuebing found a place to sit under a lamppost. He checked the surroundings for anyone before reading the newspapers. He flipped to the third page. Disciplinary reports on government staff are usually reported on this page. To his disappointment, nothing was reported.

Dong Xuebing flipped the following few pages and had no exciting news. There was nothing he could do even if he knew the future news.

The provincial government will hold an event, international meetings, etc. All these had nothing to do with Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing took a deep breath and turned to the front page to see the headlines.

Newly rebuilt school after the earthquake collapsed. Seven dead, and five were injured.

Dong Xuebing was shocked. A school building that was rebuilt after the earthquake had collapsed, and seven people were dead.

This is a severe matter in Fen Zhou City. What was going on? The buildings should not be completed.

Dong Xuebing read the article and was shocked.

The contractors had cut corners and used substandard materials for the building, and the leader in charge had received bribes.

Earning money from a disaster?!

These people were too much.

Dong Xuebing hit the newspapers. This is what he is looking for.

Chapter 959: Anonymous report

In the middle of the night.

The moon and stars hung in the sky.

Dong Xuebing reread tomorrow's newspaper headlines. He is not someone who procrastinates. He took out his lighter and burned the newspaper after he memorized that article. He got into this car and drove to tomorrow's accident site. The accident will happen in the afternoon, and the article should be added last minute. The article did not even state the victims' names or mention the accident investigation's conclusion. It only states that substandard building materials caused the collapse. He was worried and wanted to check out the building himself.

On his way to the school, Dong Xuebing called home.

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

"Hello?" Xie Huilan answered sleepily. "What is it?"

"Oh, you are sleeping." Dong Xuebing asked. "I want to ask you something. Do you know about Xi Ping District Third Middle School?"

Xie Huilan yawned. "The school that collapsed during the earthquake? I heard about it. What is it?"

Dong Xuebing quickly said. "The school was rebuilt. Do you know about the progress? Do you know who the person in charge is? Tell me about the details."

"Tell me what you are up to first."

"Aiya, just tell me the information."

"Alright...." Xie Huilan paused for a second. "Many schools in our area had collapsed during the earthquake, and it was the District Government rebuilding the schools. Some asked for tenders, and some looked for contractors directly. I am not sure about Xi Ping Third Middle School, but I know Song Fei's company supplied the material. That was how I met him once before New Year. I am unsure about the rest, and many schools are being rebuilt around Fen Zhou City. Why are you asking about this school?"

Song Fei supplied the building materials?! Hehe.... It's a small world.

Dong Xuebing immediately said. "I received an anonymous report, and I am just asking around. Alright. Go back to sleep. I will come home later."

"Ok."

Dong Xuebing threw his phone on the passenger seat and continued driving.

Xi Ping District.

Third Middle School. The place was quiet.

Dong Xuebing parked his car along the roadside and got out. This area was one of the badly hit disaster zones, and many buildings had collapsed or were damaged. Rebuilding constructions were ongoing everywhere, and it looked like a vast construction site. Only a few streetlights were working. He walked closer and saw the Third Middle School's buildings. One building was completed except for renovations, and another building was still under construction. Building materials were scattered around the entrance.

No one, including the security, was around.

Dong Xuebing entered the school compound and stood in front of the uncompleted building. He picked up a building material and knocked on the floor. Crack! He did not use any strength, and this stone brick broke on impact. Powdery substances fell off from the broken part. It was not sturdy, and he did not feel any weight.

This material was so fragile.

What the hell is this material?

Dong Xuebing was mad. This is irresponsible and disregards the safety of the teachers and students.

However, Dong Xuebing is not an expert on construction materials and passes judgment based on this piece of material. He took out his phone and started taking pictures of the materials. He entered the building and took pictures of the unfinished walls. He even picked up a shovel and stabbed it against the wall. Crack! A deep hole appeared in the wall, and sand and crashed cement flew everywhere. The wall was too fragile too. He was furious as he took more pictures of the wall. How can students study in this building? These people were willing to do all things to earn money.

Suddenly, there was light. It seemed to be from a torchlight.

Dong Xuebing looked out and saw two security guards in the field. They were patrolling with a torch and should have been patrolling when he entered. He frowned and kept his phone before jumping out of a window. He left the school.

Dong Xuebing was driving with a heavy heart. Although he could not tell the building material's issue, he knew the material was substandard. Even a layman like him could tell the difference, and he doesn't believe the person in charge and the inspector do not know. On the surface, this was a case of substandard material, but he knew some of Xi Ping District's leaders might be involved. Construction inspection was not under his jurisdiction, and he could not investigate. However, he can investigate the inspection department and construction committee's leaders. He was going to take these people to task.

How is he going to do it?

Dong Xuebing could not show the pictures he took to the Commission for Discipline Inspection.

Dong Xuebing got an idea after parking his car. He took out his laptop in the car and started typing.

Twenty minutes later.

Dong Xuebing called Hui Tian Village Police Station Chief Liu Dahai. They are life-and-death friends, and he felt safe asking him for help.

"Hello, Xuebing?" Liu Dahai yawned.

Dong Xuebing replied. "Sorry for waking up in the middle of the night."

Liu Dahai laughed. "I am not sleeping yet. It's hard to sleep nowadays as we have many cases."

"Take care of your health. Nothing is more important than your body. Oh, I need your help. Are you convenient to talk now?"

"Yes. What is it?"

"Do you have any email accounts? I will email an anonymous report and a few pictures to you."

"Report?"

"Yes. I cannot expose myself. You know a lot of people. Help me find someone reliable to print a few copies of the report. Send two copies to me and the rest to the City Discipline Commission."

"Anonymous report?"

"Yes. Sorry for the trouble."

"It's a small matter. When do you need it?"

"I need it tomorrow morning."

"So urgent? I need to start looking for someone now. It should not be a problem."

"Ok. Thanks."

If there's no opportunity, create one."

With the anonymous report, Dong Xuebing had reason to investigate.

Party Committee family quarters.

Dong Xuebing looked at the time when he returned home. It was after 1 am, and it was quiet. Xie Huilan should be sleeping, and he quietly took off his shoes and clothes before getting into bed.

"You are back." Xie Huilan looked at Dong Xuebing tiredly and turned to her side.

"Oh, did I wake you up?"

"Sleep early."

"I will tell you something since you are awake."

"Let's talk tomorrow." Xie Huilan replied. "I am sleepy."

Dong Xuebing kissed her and stuck his tongue into her mouth playfully.

"Stop it." Xie Huilan turned away. "I want to sleep."

Dong Xuebing's impression of Xie Huilan was always elegant, beautiful, and mature. She had nothing to do with cute, except for the moment when she was drifting to sleep.

"I will tell you, and you listen."

"Ok."

"Someone made an anonymous report to me about Xi Ping District Third Middle School. It claimed the rebuilt building has quality issues. The building material was substandard and might involve corruption and misuse of disaster relief funds."

"Hmm...."

"I just went to the school, and it did not look good. Some materials broke into pieces with a light kick, and the walls crumbled after I hit them. I think it would collapse if I hit it a few times. It was not sturdy at all." Dong Xuebing took out his phone and showed the pictures. "See, these are the photographs I took earlier."

Xie Huilan opened her eyes and said. "Help me up."

Dong Xuebing helped her sit up against the headboard. "Look."

Xie Huilan scrolled through the pictures and started frowning. "It looked like there was a serious problem. However, this industry is tricky, and not every piece of material is sturdy. There's no need to probe deeper if it is not serious."

Dong Xuebing firmly replied. "Trust me. This is a serious problem."

"What are you going to do? Start investigating for corruption and misuse of disaster funds from your side?"

"I still have not thought about it. But I think you should inform the higher-ups tomorrow morning. This Xi Ping Third Middle school and other rebuilt schools should use the same materials. You are in charge of education, and you should bring it up. You will be held responsible if the school buildings have quality issues."

Xie Huilan thought for a while and did not reply.

"Don't you think I am correct?" Dong Xuebing asked. "Just do as I say."

Xie Huilan narrowed her eyes. "Alright. I will listen to you this time. Send me the anonymous report tomorrow morning, and I will bring it up during the Mayor's meeting. However, I am not sure if they will do anything. After all, this incident is quite sensitive. It might make many reconstruction projects and construction sites anxious, and our City might not complete our rebuilding mission within the deadline. No one wants to be held responsible if the Central Government wants to hold someone accountable for the delay."

"Ok. You just need to inform the higher-ups about this."

Chapter 960: An opportunity to enter the Committee

Dong Xuebing received lots of stares from his colleagues and other Government staff when he came to work. They should hear about his donation at the charity event last night. Oh, they should have heard the neighboring Mayor's wife is his mother.

However, Dong Xuebing did not care. He went to his office and arranged the anonymous report he sent to himself.

Around twenty minutes later.

Dong Xuebing felt it was time and went to Discipline Commission Deputy Secretary Zhan Guiping's office.

Since Dong Xuebing started work in Discipline Commission, he reported to Inspection Office Chief Xiao Bing. However, Zhan Guiping was Dong Xuebing's direct supervisor. After Zhan Guiping returned to work, Dong Xuebing had to report to him. Zhan Guiping and Xiao Bing held the same ranks, but Zhan Guiping had more authority than Xiao Bing.

Dong Xuebing entered the office. "Secretary Zhan, I have something to report."

Zhan Guiping, who was drinking tea, smiled. "Have a seat."

"Here." Dong Xuebing sat opposite Zhan Guiping and passed him the anonymous report. "Someone sent this to my house. It is an anonymous report." He sighed. "I read it and was shocked. How can these people try to cheat the disaster relief fund and disregard the lives of the teachers and students? I feel we should investigate and hold the relevant parties responsible."

Zhan Guiping paused for a second. "I also received this report in the morning and had read it. However, there's insufficient evidence."

Dong Xuebing insisted. "Secretary Zhan, this is a serious matter. It would have grave consequences if it were real. We should investigate and cannot disregard the lives of the teachers and students. What if the building has quality issues and collapses when the students are in their classes?"

Zhan Guiping tapped on his desk. "This should fall under the construction committee."

"But...." Dong Xuebing was about to say something when Zhan Guiping interrupted him.

"Since someone reported there might be leaders involved, we should verify it. You are correct. This is not a small matter. Most of the disaster relief fund is given to us by the Central Government. It would be too much if leaders tried to get the fund through such means." Zhan Guiping's eyes turned cold. "Director Dong, I will assign this case to your Inspection First Office. Verify the claims in the anonymous report. However, don't cause any alarm in Xi Ping District until you find the evidence. I will speak to the Secretary later and discuss it."

"Alright. I will bring my men over to conduct an undercover investigation."

"You are going too?! Just send your men will do."

"It's fine. I will feel assured if I do it myself."

"Ok. Give me a call if you find anything."

Dong Xuebing left Zhan Guiping's office and closed the door.

This was the benefit of having a good relationship with the leader. When Dong Xuebing wanted to investigate any cases, he got permission from Xiao Bing in the past. Xiao Bing does not like him as they had clashed before. That's why Inspection First Office had been suppressed. Things were different after Secretary Zhan returned. Dong Xuebing had saved his daughter, and it was easier to get things done. Secretary Zhan did not ask anything and let him handle it.

After returning to his office, Dong Xuebing called Luo Haiting over.

Dong Xuebing said, "I am bringing a team for an undercover investigation. Help me gather a few people. Pick those smart ones."

Luo Haiting asked, "Can I go with you?"

Dong Xuebing thought for a while and shook his head. "I need you to wait for news here. I will worry if there's no one here. Oh, where is Deputy Director Liu?"

"Liu Hanqing?" Luo Haiting turned and looked behind. Deputy Director Liu had been quiet these few days and did not get involved. I think he should be on his PC in his office."

Dong Xuebing nodded. "Tell him to go with me."

"Ok. I will tell them."

Dong Xuebing looked at the time. It was still early. He will set off with his team after packing his stuff.

Xie Huilan called.

Dong Xuebing answered. "Have you informed them?"

"I brought it up during the Mayor's meeting." Xie Huilan replied. "However, Deputy Mayor Feng, who is in charge of the construction committee, opposed it. He said the anonymous report did not provide any evidence. It would disappoint the developer and construction material supplier if we acted on an anonymous report. The rebuilding progress would also be delayed. He refused to let the construction committee investigate. But he did mention he would send someone privately to see if the allegations were true."

Dong Xuebing frowned. "That means he is not going to do anything."

"Maybe."

"Why is he not afraid an accident might happen, and he would have to bear the responsibility?"

"Nothing has happened yet, and the construction companies are mostly Deputy Mayor Feng's contacts. Deputy Mayor Qian will be transferred, and Old Feng does not want anything to happen during this period."

“What has this got to do with Deputy Mayor Qian?”

“Old Qian is the Executive Deputy Mayor and the only Deputy Mayor in the City Party Committee. Old Feng should take over his position in the Party Committee after he left. Of course, he does not want anything to happen. It would affect his chances of entering the Party Committee if the allegations are true.”

“What about you? Do you have any chances of entering the City Party Committee?”

“Haha.... I was only transferred here recently. It’s hard for me to enter the Party Committee.”

“Hard? That means you still have a chance.”

“The chances are very slim.”

“Does that mean you can get in if Deputy Mayor Feng loses his chances?”

“I think so. Haha.... Old Feng jumped, and his eyes changed when I mentioned about Third Middle School building. He thinks I am trying to pull him down.”

Dong Xuebing snorted. “You are trying to help him. Never mind. You had brought up this matter. If anything happens, Deputy Mayor Feng will be in trouble.”