

PAW 551

Chapter 551 – The biggest troublemaker of all!

Morning.

Guang Ming Subdistrict Office's family quarters.

The sun is out, and people are going to work.

Dong Xuebing walks down the stairs with his bag while thinking about the beautiful District Mayor. They had used the same towel, wore the same suit, and he could still smell her fragrance on him faintly. He thought about the way she walked out of the shower and her fresh-out-of-bed look this morning. Not anyone can see this sight of a District Mayor. Other than him, no one should know the poker-face Mayor has a deep cleavage and is wearing sexy lacy underwear.

Dong Xuebing quickly reached the ground floor.

Dong Xuebing suddenly stops as he walks out of the apartment building. Wang Yuling and two Subdistrict Office Staff Members are standing around his Porsche.

"Director."

"Director Dong."

"Good morning."

The Staff Members saw Dong Xuebing coming out and quickly left after greeting him.

Wang Yuling looks at Dong Xuebing and smiles. "Director, are you going to work?"

Dong Xuebing nodded. "Yes. What are you doing?"

"Oh, I wonder who had parked this car at our building, and the registration plate is from Beijing." Wang Yuling is curious about this car. She is wearing a lady's white suit, and she looks reserved. "This is the first time I saw a Beijing registration with such numbers."

Zhou Yanru, in a woolen sweater and jeans, walks out from the apartment building. "Director."

Dong Xuebing smiles. "Good morning, Director Zhou. Have you taken your breakfast?"

"I just finished breakfast with my husband. Haha... What are you all doing?" Zhou Yanru is curious why both of them are standing in the carpark.

Wang Yuling walks over with a smile. "Sister Zhou, come and see this."

Zhou Yanru walks over. "What is it? The car?"

"This is the latest Porsche Cayenne, with the top fittings." Wang Yuling points to the car. "This car cost around three million with taxes."

Zhou Yanru nodded. "Who's car is this? How come I have not seen it before?"

"I don't know." Wang Yuling sighed. "How I wish I could have a car like this."

“Ask your boyfriend to work harder and buy one. Hahaha... it’s getting late. Let’s go.” Zhou Yanru is more matured compared to Wang Yuling. They are all Leaders from the Subdistrict Office, and it’s not good to be looking at a car. Even if this car has a Beijing registration plate and a Porsche, they should not be acting so surprised. But she is curious why Director Dong is standing here.

“Director.” Zhou Yanru looks at Dong Xuebing. “Have you eaten? Do you want to go to work together?”

“Sure.” Dong Xuebing looks at Wang Yuling.

Wang Yuling smiles and wonders why Dong Xuebing is looking at her.

Zhou Yanru sensed something was off and asked softly. “Director, if you are busy, I will leave with Yuling first.”

Dong Xuebing replied. “Didn’t I say we will go to work together? Director Wang, you are blocking the door. Can you give me some space?” He pressed the unlock button on his remote, and the lights flashed.

Wang Yuling is stunned. “..... This... this is your car?!”

Zhou Yanru is also dumbfounded.

Dong Xuebing nodded and got into the driver’s seat after Wang Yuling stepped aside. He waved. “Get in.”

Damn!

This is really your car!

Wang Yuling and Zhou Yanru looked at each other speechlessly.

On the way to work.

Wang Yuling asked excitedly. “Director, why did you buy this car?”

Dong Xuebing reversed out of the parking lot and left the quarters. “Around a few months. This is a gift from my mother. I had wanted to buy a Corona, but she had bought this for me.” Dong Xuebing had said he had bought the car or borrowed from a friend in Yan Tai County. But those are not good excuses, as the car cost a few million, and people will gossip about him. If he says it is a gift from his mother, he can avoid gossips. His mother didn’t know about cars and insisted on giving him this car. He would be unfilial if he didn’t drive it.

“This is too luxurious.” Wang Yuling doesn’t know what to say.

Zhou Yanru is sitting with her back straighten. She cannot behave too casually as her Leader is driving. “I had lived for 40 years, and this is the first time I got into a luxurious car worth a few million.”

Dong Xuebing laughed. “Is it so expensive? I don’t know about the price.”

Wang Yuling added. “You don’t know about this? This car cost at least three....”

“Yuling, why are you dressed like this today?” Zhou Yanru interrupted and kicked her lightly. Since Dong Xuebing doesn’t want to talk about the price, we should not bring it up. “You are formally dressed. Are you going on a date?”

Wang Yuling cleared her throat. “Oh, ah... my classmate is getting married this afternoon. Oh, Director, can I take time off this morning from 10 am to 1 pm?”

Dong Xuebing replied. “Sure, but make sure you get someone to take over your duties.”

Wang Yuling smiles. “Thank you.”

After that, Wang Yuling started examining the interior of the car enviously.

A few minutes later, they reached Guang Ming Subdistrict Office. Dong Xuebing parked the car in the compound and went up to his office.

The Subdistrict Office’s staff were all stunned when they saw the registration plate.

Porsche Cayenne? Beijing’s registration plate?!

“Are my eyes playing tricks? Is this a Porsche?”

“What is a Porsche?”

“You don’t know about Porsche Cayenne?! It is worth over a million!”

Yu Rongfeng and Guo Mingfeng, who had just entered the compound, were stunned.

Damn!

You are so daring to drive such cars!

Dong Xuebing had made the District Mayor’s younger brother drink until he was hospitalized on his first day. He scolded the District Party Secretary’s Niece on his second day. After that, he beat up more than twenty residents and caused a Deputy Chief from the Organization Department to lose his promotion. Now, he is driving a car worth a few million RMB to work openly.

Everyone finally sees the true color of their new Director!

He is the biggest troublemaker of all!

Chapter 552 – Wedding banquet in the adjacent street!

Before noon.

11 am.

Dong Xuebing went to Liu Xiang Hu Tong to check on the progress. The debris had been cleared, and he drove back to the Subdistrict Office for lunch. When he was about to reach the Subdistrict Office, he heard the sounds of firecrackers.

Why are people letting off firecrackers during this time?

Is it a wedding?

Dong Xuebing frowned and drove towards the firecrackers sound.

Ping An Street. This street is not under Dong Xuebing's jurisdiction. It is under Ping An Subdistrict Office, and it is located diagonally next to his office building. He can see the street from his office's windows. Guang Ming Subdistrict Office was at Huai An Yi Li formerly and had moved to its current location a few years ago. Their current location is one street across Ping An Subdistrict Office. That street acts as the boundary between both Subdistrict Office.

One hundred meters....

Two hundred meters....

Three hundred meters....

Dong Xuebing finally found the place where people were letting off firecrackers.

Someone is holding their wedding at a big restaurant. A convoy is parked in front, and it is very crowded.

Dong Xuebing took a look and is not interested. He made a turn and was about to leave.

But suddenly, someone called him. "Director! Director Dong!"

Dong Xuebing looked around and saw Wang Yuling waving to him from the restaurant's entrance. He remembered her mentioning she had taken time off from work to attend her friend's wedding. He drove over and parked by the roadside.

Dong Xuebing alighted. "Director Wang, why are you here?"

Wang Yuling laughs. "My high school friend is getting married. Director, are you here to attend the wedding too?"

"I just happen to pass by this area." Dong Xuebing replied with a smile. "Alright. I am leaving."

Wang Yuling stopped Dong Xuebing. "Wait. The banquet is starting, and you should come along."

Dong Xuebing laughed. "It's your friend's wedding, and I don't know her."

"My friend's husband is Director Chu's son, and many people from the District Government are here."

"..... Director Chu?" Dong Xuebing had heard of this name.

"Yes. Ping An Subdistrict Office's Director, Chu Qinghua."

Dong Xuebing remembers this person. The adjacent Subdistrict Office Director's son is holding his wedding today. He had not met Chu Qinghua as he is new to the area, but he had heard of him.

Wang Yuling's political wisdom is not high and insists Dong Xuebing enter the banquet with her.

Dong Xuebing smiled. Although many of the District's Leaders are attending, Chu Qinghua did not invite him. Why should he attend the banquet? But he frowned as he thought about it. I am your adjacent Subdistrict Office Director, and you had invited Wang Yuling. Why didn't you send me an invitation or give me a call? This is so disrespectful! He thought for a while and felt he would be embarrassed if he left now. Others will think that he left because he did not receive the invitation.

Damn! It is too embarrassing! I will attend the wedding and not give you a red packet since you all are not giving me face!

Dong Xuebing does not act or behave like others. "Director Wang, I will join in the fun. Let's go."

"Eh? Who is this?" A family member of the wedding couple walks over.

Wang Yuling laughed. "This is our Subdistrict Office, Director Dong."

Wang Yuling's reply attracted the stares of surrounding people. Everyone turns and looks at Dong Xuebing, who is standing in front of his Cayenne.

"That guy is Director Dong?!"

"The guy who beat up others?"

"Why is he driving a Porsche? Is that his car?"

"Damn! This Subdistrict Office Director is so daring to drive this car."

"This car is worth at least a few million. Why is the registration plate from Beijing, and it's 9999?!"

"I think this car is slightly better than Director Chu's son's wedding car?"

"Slightly better?! Even two imported Mercedes Benz cost less than this car. Is that guy Guang Ming Subdistrict Office's Director?!"

"He is such a showoff. Even our District's top tycoon doesn't drive such expensive car."

Dong Xuebing's appearance attracted many people's attention. Most of the people there are the Leaders and staff of Ping An Subdistrict Office, and some are from other Subdistrict Offices. Although the rest of the District did not know about what he did, the surrounding Subdistrict Offices had heard about it. Most of them, especially the people from Ping An Subdistrict, are curious about him. They are speechless after seeing him. This guy is a troublemaker like the rumors. Other than him, who else dare to beat up civilians in Nan Shan District? Who dares to drive a multi-million car around?!

Dong Xuebing had not done this on purpose. If he knows there are many Leaders around, he will drive another car over. But since he had driven his car, it was pointless to hide.

The bride and groom had entered the restaurant, and everyone started going in.

"Director, shall we go in too?" Wang Yuling asked.

Dong Xuebing only knows Wang Yuling here, and he nodded. They started following the crowd into the restaurant.

Suddenly, a middle-aged man in his fifties walks over with a smile. "Are you Director Dong?"

Wang Yuling quickly whispered to Dong Xuebing. "He is Ping An Subdistrict Office's Director, Chu Qinghua."

Oh? Dong Xuebing smiles and extends his hand for a handshake. "I am Dong Xuebing. Director Chu? Haha... I had heard about you and had wanted to meet you. Sorry for coming uninvited."

Chu Qinghua smiles. "I don't have your number as you are newly transferred here, and I could not contact you."

"Hahaha... congratulations on your son's wedding."

"Thank you. Please come in." Chu Qinghua excused himself and went to welcome another Leader.

Although Chu Qinghua said he could not contact him, Dong Xuebing does not have any good impression. You can get my phone number easily if you ask around, and how can you not know our Subdistrict Office's number? Moreover, you can get Wang Yuling to contact me. This is not a matter of you unable to contact me. You have no intentions of inviting me in the first place.

There are twenty tables in the restaurant, and they had booked the whole place.

Wang Yuling accompanied Dong Xuebing for a while and went off to meet her friends. Suddenly, Dong Xuebing saw a familiar person, and he walked over to greet him.

"Chief Pang? It's been a while."

"Oh, Chief Dong. No... I should address you as Director Dong now."

Both shook hands and started chatting.

This person is Nan Shan District's Investment Promotion Agency's Chief, Pang Zhengyi. Dong Xuebing had met him when he went for a meeting at the District Government. They are not close, as Dong Xuebing knows he is Da Feng County Investment Promotion Agency's Chief Pang Zhou's cousin. Pang Zhou, who had snatched Dong Xuebing's investment, was suspended because of Dong Xuebing and is now dismissed from the Government Service. Dong Xuebing knows that although Pang Zhengyi did not show any emotions on his face, he should not have a good impression.

The banquet is finally starting.

The wedding emcee hosted the wedding on the stage, and the servers started bringing out the food.

Chu Qinghua came over to welcome Pang Zhengyi and other District and Subdistrict Leaders. He also brought Dong Xuebing to a table near the main table. Everyone at this table is Section Chief rank and above, other than Wang Yuling. Although her rank is not high, her uncle is the District Party Secretary. That's why Chu Qinghua arranged for her to sit at this table. Dong Xuebing only knows Pang Zhengyi and Wang Yuling and doesn't know the rest. They did not talk and started eating after the food was served.

This wedding banquet is not a small event, but it is not considered a big event. Compared to the Leaders' wedding ceremonies, this is considered very low-profile.

The wedding car is a Mercedes Benz, and this is not an expensive restaurant.

It is very rare to find someone fearless like Dong Xuebing in the Government Service. Most of them follow the rules and are afraid of gossips. That's why they will try to keep it low, and some don't even hold wedding banquets for their children. This is also why Chu Qinghua didn't hold the banquet on the weekend. When Government Officials reach this level, they become worried about minor issues that can affect their reputation.

The ceremony ended, and everyone clapped to congratulate the couple.

After that, the newlyweds went from table to table to have a toast with their guests. The first table they went to was the Leaders' table.

Dong Xuebing puts down his chopsticks and raises his glass. He congratulated the couple, and Wang Yuling had her arms over the bride's shoulders and joked with them. They seem to be very close.

"Yuling, stop it."

"Hehe... I can stop now, but I will go to your house tonight."

As they were joking around, a family member from the groom's side came over anxiously. "District Mayor Geng and Madam Yan are here."

Chapter 553 – Women at forty!

Afternoon.

Ping An Street Restaurant.

Chu Qinghua jumped when he heard Geng Yuehua and Madam Yan had arrived. He quickly dragged his son and daughter-in-law out to welcome them. Geng Yuehua had entered the restaurant, and she was not wearing Dong Xuebing's suit. She must have changed this morning. The suit she is wearing now looks good on her, and the middle-aged woman beside her looks average.

Many people stood up to welcome them.

Chu Qinghua smiles and apologizes. "Sorry for not receiving you at the entrance as I don't know you are coming."

The bride and groom look restrained. They had sent an invitation to the District Government, but they thought the Leader would be too busy to attend. That's why they are panicking.

Dong Xuebing also did not expect the District Mayor to appear, but who is that Madam Yan? He asked Wang Yuling. "Director Wang, who is Madam Yan?"

Wang Yuling replied softly. "She is my aunt."

Your aunt? Does that mean she is the District Party Secretary Wang Anshi's wife?!

Dong Xuebing is surprised to know the District Mayor and the District Party Secretary's wife had come to attend Chu Qinghua's son's wedding. He must have strong backings, or his Subdistrict had achieved outstanding results, and the District Government is giving them special attention. In contrast, Guang Ming Subdistrict looks like they had been forgotten. They had followed the District Government's orders to crack down on illegal buildings, and they were almost punished for doing that.

Many people start to crowd around Geng Yuehua and Madam Yan, and Dong Xuebing doesn't want to join them. He went to the restroom to wash his hands and face, as he was feeling tipsy from the glass of alcohol he drunk earlier.

One minute....

Two minutes....

Three minutes....

Dong Xuebing returned to his table after coming out of the restroom.

“Mayor Geng, Madam Yan. If I know you two are coming, I will not start the banquet so early.” Chu Qinghua said.

Geng Yuehua waved her hand with a straight face. “It’s alright.”

Madam Yan smiles. “Oh, carry on with what you are doing, and you don’t need to accompany us. Yuehua, let’s sit here.”

Wang Yuling smiled sweetly and held Madam Yan’s arm. “Aunt, I will accompany you.”

“You ah....” Madam Yan smiles.

Dong Xuebing returned to his table and greeted them. “Mayor Geng, Madam Yan.”

Geng Yuehua nodded without saying anything.

“This is?” Madam Yan had never met Dong Xuebing before.

Geng Yuehua replied. “Guang Ming Subdistrict Office’s Director Xiao Dong.”

“Oh...”

Madam Yan might have heard of him and nodded.

After exchanging some pleasantries, everyone returned to their seats. Geng Yuehua and Madam Yan insisted each other sit at the central position. It was settled after the waitress brought another chair to the table. Both of them are sitting in the central position, and they start chatting. Dong Xuebing is quiet at the table and does not join other people’s conversations. He didn’t know anyone and sat there observing everyone.

Wang Yuling spoke the most at the table. She chatted with Madam Yan and addressed her as Aunt openly. It seems that she doesn’t mind others knowing they are relatives. This is also because she only wants to past time at the Subdistrict Office and is not ambitious. That’s why she doesn’t hide her relationship with the District Leaders to prevent gossips.

Geng Yuehua is talking to Pang Zhengyi. Compared to the time she faced Dong Xuebing, she has more things to say to him. When Dong Xuebing overheard their conversation, he almost burst out laughing. They are not chatting, and she is talking about the District Investment Promotion Agency’s target. That’s right. She is not interested in chatting with others. But how can you talk about work at a wedding banquet?

Pang Zhengyi was sitting upright and kept nodding. Dong Xuebing felt Pang Zhengyi might be from Geng Yuehua’s faction.

“Dad.” The groom asked his father. “Should we change the dishes at this table?”

Chu Qinghua nodded and called the waitress over. “Replace all the dishes at this table with new ones. Bring the menu over.” The guests had eaten the food at this table, and he could not let the District Mayor eat their leftovers.

The dishes were cleared, and Chu Qinghua passed the menu to Madam Yan and Geng Yuehua to order.

Madam Yan laughed. "Those dishes are fine. Why did you remove them? I also don't know what the rest are like. Let Yuehua order."

Geng Yuehua doesn't like to waste time. "Each of us will order one dish."

"Ok." Madam Yan flipped the menu. "I will order Green Dragon lying in Snow."

Geng Yuehua looks at the menu and orders a dish called Volcano in the Snow.

Wang Yuling and Pang Zhengyi ordered Phoenix Dance and Yellow Crane Flying Off. These dishes have fanciful names.

Dong Xuebing looks at the menu on his turn and is amused. The menu shows the pictures of the dishes, and Green Dragon lying in Snow is just cucumbers with white sugar sprinkled on it. Volcano in the Snow is a tomato appetizer, and Phoenix Dance is a roast chicken. Yellow Crane Flying Off is a lotus and chicken soup. He flips to the next page and sees a picture of a dish. It looks like a snow mountain with chili flakes on it, but he doesn't know the ingredients. The name of this dish is called Women at forty. He thought for a while. Geng Yuehua is in her thirties, approaching forty, and Madam Yan is in her forties. This is a good dish.

"Women at forty." Dong Xuebing ordered as he felt this should be a nourishing dish for women around this age.

The other Leaders looked at Dong Xuebing and felt he was sucking up to Geng Yuehua and Madam Yan.

The waitress took down their orders and left.

Five minutes....

Ten minutes....

Twenty minutes....

The dishes are served.

When Dong Xuebing looked at the table, he noticed something that made him speechless. The alcohol glasses of all the Leaders, who were drinking before Geng Yuehua came, were gone except for his. Some had switch to fruit juice, and he was the only one with some alcohol in his glass. They must have gotten the waitress to remove their alcohol glasses when he went to the toilet earlier.

Damn!

Why didn't you all remove all the alcohol glasses?!

Are you all trying to get me in trouble?

It is a weekday, and everyone still has to work in the afternoon. The Government Service had rules on drinking during office hours. Dong Xuebing can tell that the other Leaders are not afraid of Madam Yan. They are afraid of District Mayor Geng. Although drinking at a wedding banquet is fine, and Geng Yuehua will not penalize them, it shows she has high prestige in Nan Shan District. Everyone knows her working style, and that's why they removed their alcohol glasses in a hurry.

By doing this, they are putting Dong Xuebing in a spot.

If everyone is drinking at his wedding banquet, it will be fine. But Dong Xuebing is the only one with a glass of alcohol there! It is too obvious!

Luckily, Chu Qinghua came over with the bride and groom to offer a toast

The groom is not good with words. He raised his glass and said. "Leaders, Elders, I will offer you all a toast."

Chu Qinghua scolded. "You must offer a toast to everyone personally."

"Huh? That's right." The groom walks over to drink with Madam Yan and Geng Yuehua.

Geng Yuehua picks up her cup. "I have a meeting this afternoon. So, I will drink tea."

Chu Qinghua doesn't dare to reject, and no one dares to force the District Mayor to drink.

Dong Xuebing saw everyone is looking at the groom. He quickly finished the alcohol in his glass and poured tea into it.

Ding... ding... ding.... The sounds of glass knocking continue.

"Congratulations."

"We wish you a harmonious union lasting a hundred years!"

"I am working this afternoon, and I will drink tea too."

The groom had drunk with them earlier, but after Geng Yuehua and Madam Han came, he had to offer toast again to show his respect.

Dong Xuebing finished his glass of tea and sat down to eat.

Eh? What is this? Dong Xuebing almost spat out the food. It tasted gross, but he forced himself to swallow it. He took a spoonful of food from a greyish dish garnished with chili and spring onions earlier. It looks good, but it tasted gross. Who ordered this?!

Pang Zhenyi also tried this dish, and he frowned immediately.

Madam Yan saw his reaction and did not take food from that plate. The rest also avoid that dish.

"Is this Mapo Tofu?" Pang Zhengyi asked.

Chu Qinghua looked closer, and his face changed. "I think this is soybean pulp. I don't remember this dish is on the menu."

A Leader shook his head. "No one ordered this."

Chu Qinghua waved a waitress over and pointed to that dish. "Take that away!"

Soybean pulp?! How can you all serve such things to my guests?!

The waitress is stunned. "We served based on what you all ordered, and all the dishes are correct."

Pang Zhengyi shook his head. "No one ordered this dish. Please remove it."

The waitress suddenly said something shocking. “You all did order this dish. This dish is called Women at forty.” Her voice got softer towards the end, but everyone heard her!

Madam Yan’s face changed!

Geng Yuehua immediately frowned!

Dong Xuebing’s face turns green!

Damn! This is the dish I ordered?!

Women at forty?! Women at forty are soybean pulp?!

Damn! Are you all trying to get me into trouble?!

Translator’s notes: This is a Chinese saying: Men at forty are flowers in bloom, women at forty are soybean residue.

Chapter 554 – Xiao Dong is mad!

Noon.

Wedding banquet.

Dong Xuebing almost kicked that waitress when he heard that greyish pile of trash is the dish, Women at 40!

Women at 40?!

Do you dare to serve a plate of soybean pulp?!

What sort of name is this?!

The District Party Secretary’s wife and District Mayor, Geng Yuehua, are looking terrible, and Dong Xuebing immediately wanted us to BACK to amend his mistake. But he had used up all his accumulated time to practice REVERSE and used the two minutes he saved over the last two days in his fight in Liu Xiang Hu Tong. He has only slightly more than one minute left. This dish was served more than five minutes ago. Damn! He had embarrassed himself by trying to suck up to them!

Many people heard this, and the banquet went silent for a few seconds!

Suddenly, a few students burst out laughing, and the laughter spread. Even a few people from the Government Service started laughing.

But no one at the table laughed.

District Mayor Geng Yuehua is in her thirties and will be forty in a few years. The dish ordered by Dong Xuebing implies that she might be pretty now, but she will look like this dish in a few years. It is worse for Madam Yan. She is in her mid-forties, and it implies she looks like soybean residue now. Everyone looks like Dong Xuebing and laughs in their heart. He had offended two of the most powerful people in the District with a dish!

Dong Xuebing cursed in his heart and pushed the plate of soybean pulp to the waitress. “Bring it away! How can you all serve this under that name?!”

The waitress quickly brings the dish away.

Dong Xuebing slapped his forehead. "Sorry! I will punish myself by drinking three classes!"

Dong Xuebing doesn't care whether Government staff are allowed to drink during office hours or not and started pouring alcohol into his glass.

One glass....

Two glasses....

Three glasses....

After finishing the alcohol, Dong Xuebing sat down. He is not suitable to say anything now and hopes someone can help him clear up the misunderstanding. He had done this on purpose. But Chu Qinghua cleared his throat. He did not help Dong Xuebing resolve the awkward situation and stood up to bring his son and daughter-in-law to the next table to offer a toast. Without the host, Chu Qinghua clearing up the misunderstanding, it becomes more awkward.

Dong Xuebing looks at Chu Qinghua. What's the meaning of this?

It was Wang Yuling who helped Dong Xuebing. She hugged Madam Yan's arm. "What a stupid menu! Who will name their dishes like this?! Are they trying to close their business?!"

Dong Xuebing added. "The pictures in the menu are not clear, and who can tell what that dish is?!"

Wang Yuling replied. "They are trying to mislead others!"

Dong Xuebing continued. "Women at 40 should be a plate of flowers."

"Hehe... that's right. women at 40 are flowers." Wang Yuling laughed. "My Aunt is prettier than me now."

Madam Yan smiles and shakes her head.

Dong Xuebing and Wang Yuling quickly defused the awkwardness, and he was relieved. Luckily, Wang Yuling is willing to speak up for him, and his impression of her changed. Although Geng Yuehua and Madam Yan did not show any displeasure, he doesn't know what they think in their hearts. He knows Mayor Geng only thinks about work and will not be bothered by such trivial matters. But he does not understand Madam Yan and doesn't know what she thinks.

Damn!

Why do I have to encounter such an unlucky incident?!

Dong Xuebing is mad. Geng Yuehua left during the banquet after a while as she was busy with work. After she left, he stood up and walked over to the front counter.

"Where is your Boss?!" Dong Xuebing stares at a waiter.

The waiter is stunned as he knows many VIPs are around. He quickly points to the back. "The Boss is in the kitchen. Walk straight and turn left."

Dong Xuebing stormed towards the kitchen.

Kitchen.

A few chefs are cutting fruits, and a sign says “no outsiders” at the entrance.

This restaurant has been newly opened for two weeks, and the kitchen is new.

The restaurant Boss, Li Lu, is ordering the chefs with his arms crossed. “I am saying this again. There are many VIPs today, and after all the main dishes are served, the fruits platter and desserts must be served immediately. Bring out all your skills. Eh, Old Wang, why are you using that apple with bruised skin?! Get a new one. Xiao Chen, hurry up with the desserts. Remember, it is 22 large servings.” Bam! Someone opened the door.

Dong Xuebing barged in with a copy of the menu and threw it on the floor. “Are you the Boss, Li Lu?!” Li Lu frowned as he looked at him. “It’s me. What is it?” Li Lu is quite young and is in his thirties.

Dong Xuebing frowned. “You still dare to ask me what is it?! What are you trying to do? Women at 40, and you served a plate of soybean residue?!”

Li Lu’s eyes darted around. “This is one of our specialty dishes, and it’s a joke. Don’t take it too seriously.”

“Who will joke like this?” Dong Xuebing is furious. “This might be fine if it is a family dinner, and they can laugh it off. But who are you all serving today?! Mayor Geng and Madam Yan! How can you joke like that?! That plate of soybean residue is an insult! Mr. Li, you are too daring to play a joke on Mayor Geng!”

Li Lu stares at Dong Xuebing. “Who are you?”

“You don’t need to know who I am!” Dong Xuebing points outside. “Madam Yan is still around. I want you to bring your staff and chefs to apologize to her now!” If the restaurant staff and owner apologized to Madam Yan, it would calm the situation. Even though he is not on District Mayor Wang Anshi’s faction, they have not fallen out or clashed. There’s no point offending him for this stupid reason.

“Apologize?” Li Lu looks surprised. “Is this Madam Yan’s instruction?”

“.... It’s mine!”

“You?!” Li Lu is relieved, and his tone becomes calmer. “Sorry, we have included pictures in our menu. Even if you misunderstood the dish because of the name, you could tell what that is from the picture. Why should we apologize after this dish is ordered by you all? If you all don’t like this dish, you all can don’t order it.” He is scared of Madam Yan, but not Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing stares at Li Lu coldly. “Pictures?! Look at it yourself! Other than some chop chilis, who can tell that is a plate of Soybean residue?!” He kicked the menu towards Li Lu.

Li Lu did not look at the menu. “How is it our fault if you all did not see it carefully?!”

Damn! You still dare to blame me and still don’t want to admit it is your fault?!

“This is the kitchen, and you are not allowed to be here. Please leave.” Li Lu ignored Dong Xuebing and turned to his chef. “Hurry up!”

Dong Xuebing is furious.

Suddenly, Ping An Subdistrict Office’s Director Chu Qinghua enters the kitchen. “Eh, Director Dong? I thought you had left. Are you here because of that dish?”

Dong Xuebing looks at Chu Qinghua and leaves without saying anything. He will settle the score another time.

Chu Qinghua looks at Li Lu. “Mr. Li, there’s an issue with your menu. How can you name a dish as Woman at 40? You had embarrassed Director Dong and me!”

“Director Dong?” Li Lu asked.

“This is Director Dong from Guang Ming Subdistrict Office.” Chu Qinghua introduced.

“Oh...” Li Lu smiles. “Director Chu, we had hired someone to design our menu, and it is a joke. We didn’t think much about it. I will get them to change the menu, and we will not serve this dish, Women at 40, again. It’s our fault.”

Chu Qinghua nodded. “You can decide about it yourself. Oh, is the dessert ready?”

“Give me five minutes.”

“Alright. The guests are waiting. Hurry up.”

“No problems.”

Dong Xuebing gave Li Lu a cold stare. He remembers every word Li Lu said. You got me into trouble with your dish and made me offended Nan Shan District’s No. 1 and No. 2. This would be over if he had apologized to Madam Yan. Dong Xuebing will not make a fuss over it, but he is not showing any remorse. This is your restaurant’s fault, and you still dare to blame me for not checking the menu?!

“Director Dong.” Chu Qinghua laughed. “Don’t get angry over this. Come, let’s go out and get a drink.”

Chu Qinghua had not given Dong Xuebing ‘face’ earlier, and he is not going to give him any ‘face’ now. “Mr. Li, I will say this one more time. Apologize to Madam Yan now, and this is over!”

Li Lu frowned and looked away. Even after knowing Dong Xuebing is a Subdistrict Office’s Director, his attitude towards him is completely different from Chu Qinghua. Maybe it is because his restaurant is located in Ping An Subdistrict Office’s jurisdiction and has no dealings with Guang Ming Subdistrict.

Ignoring me?!

Li Lu! Li Zhi Restaurant!

Fine! This is not the end!

Dong Xuebing nodded at Li Lu. This guy is asking for it.

Dong Xuebing turns and leaves.

But Dong Xuebing did not see the moment he turns, Chu Qinghua and Li Lu exchanged looks and laughed.

Chapter 555 – Playing with fire!

Afternoon.

Dong Xuebing drove back to Guang Ming Subdistrict Office, which is not far away. He saw a few staff members looking at him weirdly when he descended.

“Have you heard about it? Our new Director had got into trouble again.”

“Got into trouble again?! What happened?”

“Ping An Subdistrict Office’s Director had held a wedding banquet, and Mayor Geng and District Party Secretary’s wife were there.”

“I know about this. I heard the firecrackers earlier. What happened?”

“Our Director ordered a dish called Women at 40 for them.”

“What is that dish? I have not heard about it in the past.”

“Err... it is a plate of soybean pulp.”

“WTF?! Women at 40 are soybean residue?! Who came up with this dish?! Director Dong must have offended them! They are getting our Director into trouble.”

“That’s right. I heard Madam Yan’s face changed immediately.”

“Of course. This is insulting her.”

“This is an unfortunate disaster. Who would expect that to be a plate of soybean residue?!”

Although Dong Xuebing did not hear their discussion, he knew the news about what happened during the banquet had spread from their expression. He returned to his office and started thinking about what happened at the banquet. He felt something was wrong the more he thought about it. That restaurant’s Boss, Li Lu, knows Madam Yan and Mayor Geng are there and watched over the kitchen. This is an important banquet, and he should know the dish Women at 40 is not a suitable dish to be served.

Didn’t Li Lu check the dishes before it was taken out from the kitchen? Also, Chu Qinghua was beside Dong Xuebing when he ordered that dish. He should have checked the menu before ordering the food for the banquet. Why didn’t he remind Dong Xuebing about that dish?

Something is wrong.

Dong Xuebing narrowed his eyes and called Zhou Yanru to his office. “Director Zhou, please come over to my office.”

Two minutes later, Zhou Yanru entered Dong Xuebing's office. "Director, what is it?"

"Have a seat." Dong Xuebing waved and asked. "I had just come back from Ping An Subdistrict Office, Director Chu's banquet."

Zhou Yanru nodded. "I heard about it. I heard his son had gotten married today."

Heard about it? You think?! Dong Xuebing noticed something was wrong. Both subdistricts are next to each other, and why most of his Subdistrict Office's staff are not invited, and they look like they don't know anything about it. Only Wang Yuling was invited. Maybe Geng Xinke was invited, but he did not attend.

Dong Xuebing looks at Zhou Yanru. "What do you know about Director Chu?"

Zhou Yanru blinks. "Director Chu is Ping An Subdistrict Office for four to five years, but... errr... how should I say this? Hehe... their Subdistrict, and we have never... been on good terms."

Not on good terms? Dong Xuebing is curious. "Oh? What happened?"

Zhou Yanru did not hide anything. "It was because of an incident two years ago. A youth was murdered on the western riverbank, and his body was floating on the river. Some residents saw the body and reported it to the police. But the officers from Ping An Subdistrict Police Station did not pull the body out of the water. They sat by the riverbank, smoking and chatting as they waited."

"Why are they waiting?" Dong Xuebing frowned.

Zhou Yanru looks angry when she says this. "That river is the border between our Subdistrict and Ping An Subdistrict. If the body floats to our riverbank, it will be our case, and if it floats to their side, it will be their case. Their Police Officers do not want to take on this case as it is hard to solve murder cases. They are afraid it will affect their crime-solving rate. They stood there for hours and waited until the body drifted to our bank before informing Chief Peng. After that, they left as if it had nothing to do with them. How can they do this?! This is a murder case, and this is too much!"

Dong Xuebing pulled a long face. How can these people be called Police officers?! They had ignored a dead body!

"Did this happens?"

Zhou Yanru nodded. "Almost everyone in our Subdistrict knows about this incident. Some residents also saw it. After that, we had some other conflicts, and our relationship got worst." Most Government Officials will try to tone down the seriousness of an incident, but she did not tone it down this time. This means the relationship between both Subdistricts is like fire and water.

Dong Xuebing closed his eyes for a second. No wonder Chu Qinghua had not invited him when his son got married. Other than Wang Yuling, he did not see anyone from Guang Ming Subdistrict Office at the banquet. Both Subdistricts have had conflicts in the past and still bear grudges against each other.

Zhou Yanru left, and Dong Xuebing looked out of his office's windows.

That dish was not a misunderstanding!

From what Sister Zhou told him, he finally got a clue. Chu Qinghua should know about the dish Women at 40, and purpose did not remind Dong Xuebing when he ordered it. The restaurant owner,

Li Lu, should also know about the dish. Chu Qinghua had picked Li Zhi Restaurant to hold his son's wedding banquet, which means he is close to Li Lu. Li Lu had probably checked with Chu Qinghua before serving that dish, but the latter did not stop him. They had purposely made this dish looks uglier and served it. Dong Xuebing remembered Chu Qinghua had picked up the menu and repeatedly said they had not ordered this dish, prompting the waitress to explain its name! This move embarrassed Dong Xuebing, and Chu Qinghua did not help to clear up the misunderstanding after that and left immediately! A restaurant Boss will not dare to do this!

Damn! Misunderstanding?! Bullshit!

This is a plot by Chu Qinghua and Li Lu to get Dong Xuebing into trouble!

They are trying to make Dong Xuebing look bad in front of Geng Yuehua and Madam Yan!

Dong Xuebing finally understood what happened, and he banged his desk in anger. Do you want to embarrass me and let me offend the District Leaders with this incident?! You want to make use of the District Leaders to target me?! This is too much! How dare you plot against me with such a dirty trick?!

Damn!

Dong Xuebing exploded. He hates people who play dirty tricks behind him and still pretends nothing had happened in front of him!

Li Lu! Chu Qinghua!

You all are playing with fire!

Chapter 556 – You will forget what your surname is!

Afternoon.

Guang Ming Subdistrict Office's side building. The warm summer breeze blew against the Work Party Secretary Office's windows, passing the heat in.

Knock... knock... knock.... Director Guo Mingfeng knocked on Dong Xuebing's office and entered a document.

"Director, this is the report from our various neighborhood committees."

"Oh, I will look at it later. What is it regarding?"

"It is about a campaign on respecting and helping the elderlies. It started last month in the District."

"Alright. Just leave it here."

"If there's nothing else, I will go back to work."

Dong Xuebing took out the document from the brown envelope after Guo Mingfeng left. Before he was appointed, this was a directive from the District, and he didn't know about the details. But he can tell from the Neighborhood Committees' reports that the District wants all Subdistricts to learn

from Ping An Subdistrict on helping elderly. He was still thinking of teaching Chu Qinghua and Li Lu a lesson and was more upset after reading the reports.

You want us to learn from Ping An Subdistrict?!

What a joke!

Dong Xuebing is irritated from this afternoon's incident. He cannot tolerate anyone who used dirty tricks against him behind his back. What's worse is they don't have any conflicts before. He had snatched Geng Xinke's position, and it's normal for him to try and get back at him by trying to make him drunk. The Organization Department Deputy Chief, Peng Kun, had clashed with him because he wanted to suck up to his superior, Xue Qingrong. But what about Chu Qinghua and Li Lu? He was only the Subdistrict Office Director for one week and had not interacted with them. He even went to congratulate him on his son's wedding. But they still used dirty tricks against him. Just because Guang Ming Subdistrict and Ping An Subdistrict are not on good terms, and you all framed me?! Damn!

Dong Xuebing cannot swallow this, as this is not his style.

Dong Xuebing walked over to the windows and stared at Li Zhi Restaurant's entrance.

The banquet had ended, and there was not much activity at the restaurant in the afternoon. Many restaurants will close for a few hours in the afternoon and open again for the dinner crowd. But Li Zhi Restaurant is not taking a break in the afternoon. Dong Xuebing noticed a few waiters were carrying speakers and microphones out of the restaurant. They also laid out the red carpet used during the wedding banquet in the open space outside. The restaurant is only across the street, and he can see Li Lu ordering his staff around.

What are they doing?

Are they trying to hold a concert?

Dong Xuebing returned to his desk and continued with his work. He went through the documents, signed them while thinking of how to teach Li Lu a lesson. Even though Chu Qinghua had instigated Li Lu, but he holds the same rank as Dong Xuebing. Li Lu is a nobody, and he helped to frame him.

Five minutes....

Ten minutes....

Fifteen minutes....

Before Dong Xuebing went to look for trouble with Li Lu, the latter started causing trouble for him again.

"Good afternoon, everyone. Li Zhi Restaurant is having a promotion today. We are offering a 20% discount to thank everyone's support since our opening. Our Boss, Mr. Li, is holding a quiz on our restaurant's dishes with the dish's name. Participants will guess what dish it is from the name. Whoever can answer all the questions correctly will get a 300 RMB voucher."

"300 RMB for five dishes' name?!"

“That’s right. Are you interested in trying?”

“Sure. Is it starting now?”

“Yes. Please hold on to the microphone. The first question is, what kind of dish is Volcano in the Snow?”

“This is easy. It is a cold dish with tomatoes.”

“Congratulations! You got the first question right. You must be our regular. Please listen carefully to the second question. What is Phoenix Dance?”

Li Zhi Restaurant had blasted their activity loudly through their big speakers.

Dong Xuebing frowned and walked over to the window. He saw the promotional activity outside of Li Zhi Restaurant, and it had attracted a big crowd. 300 RMB voucher is very attractive to many, as one can dine at the restaurant for a few meals. But their activity is very loud and has caused disturbance to others. He can hear everything even after he closes his windows!

“Sorry! You got this dish wrong.”

“Really? Impossible!”

“I’m sorry. Let’s invite our next contestant.”

“Me! Me!”

Dong Xuebing was in a bad mood, and it got worse after Li Lu’s noisy disturbance. He banged his desk angrily. “What the hell is he trying to do?!”

Many Guang Ming Subdistrict Office’s staff are mad. It’s slightly better for the Administrative Service Lobby as it is located behind the side building. Still, the side building is facing Li Zhi Restaurant’s two 1-meter-tall speakers. The noise is affecting their work.

Dong Xuebing called Zhou Yanru at her office, but no one answered, and he called her mobile phone. “Hello, it’s me.”

“Director.”

“Send someone to Li Zhi Restaurant and ask them to switch off their speakers!”

“Hello?! What did you say? I’m sorry, I can’t hear you. It’s too noisy.”

“Go to Li Zhi Restaurant and turn off their speakers! How are we going to work with this noise?!”

“I am downstairs and am on my way over. Our office is also very noisy, and we cannot even hear each other with our windows close.” Zhou Yanru sounded angry. “Don’t worry. I will tell them off now!”

After hanging up, Dong Xuebing’s office phone rang.”

Secretary of the Disciplinary Work Committee, Qu Yiqiang, called. "Director, I had just returned from the Complaint Counter. Many residents are complaining against Li Zhi Restaurant for noise disturbance. How are we going to handle this?"

"I had sent Director Zhou over."

"These promotion activities are getting too much. How can they set such high volume?"

After hanging up, Dong Xuebing walks over to the window and looks at Li Zhi Restaurant.

The quiz is still ongoing, and Li Lu is standing by the side with his arms crossed. A crowd of around 50 had formed.

Zhou Yanru and a few Guang Ming Subdistrict Office staff went up to them.

"Who is the Boss?" Zhou Yanru had a harsh tone. "Where is the person in charge?! What are you all trying to do?"

Li Lu frowned and looked at her. "What's wrong?"

Zhou Yanru looks at Li Lu. "Are you the Boss?! Stop your activity at once and switch off the speakers! Do you know you are causing noise disturbance to the surrounding residents?!"

Li Lu ignored her and laughed.

A staff member gave Li Lu a stare. "Didn't you hear what Director Zhou said?!"

Director Zhou? Li Lu looked at the building diagonally opposite the street and understood what was going on. "Are you all from Guang Ming Subdistrict Office? We are having a promotion, and it will end in the evening. Disturbance? It is not very loud, and it's not nighttime now. We are not disturbing anyone now."

Zhou Yanru coldly replied. "Do you think it is fine just because it is not nighttime?! You have affected the surrounding residents and our Subdistrict Office! Stop it immediately!"

Li Lu looks at them in disgust. Who cares if it affects your work? He had planned to have this activity for a while but worried it would cause disputes because it would be loud. That's why he didn't hold this promotion activity before his opening. But now, he used his connection with Ping An Subdistrict Office to assist him to cover up for any complaints against them. Who cares about what Guang Ming Subdistrict Office? This area is under Ping An Subdistrict.

Li Lu ignored Zhou Yanru and continued watching the activity on the stage.

"Congratulations. You got all five dishes right!" "Hahaha"

Zhou Yanru got mad. "I am telling you for the last time! Stop it immediately!"

Li Lu pretends not to hear anything and even turns up the volume. Anyway, Guang Ming Subdistrict cannot do anything to him, as it intrudes into Ping An Subdistrict's territory. He had already offended Guang Ming Subdistrict Office's Director this afternoon. He doesn't care if he offends the rest of the Subdistrict because Ping An Subdistrict got his back.

Ten minutes later.

Work Party Secretary Office.

Zhou Yanru returned angrily. "Director."

Dong Xuebing pulled a long face as the commotion was still ongoing. "Why is the noise still ongoing?!"

"Li Zhi Restaurant's Boss refused to stop the activity and ignored us. I suggest sending Officers to stop them."

"Is that Ping An Subdistrict Office's territory?"

"..... Yes."

"Ok. I know. Go back to work."

After Zhou Yanru left, Dong Xuebing took a deep breath and smiled. Li Lu... have you got addicted to causing trouble for me? You had framed me this afternoon, and now you are causing disturbance to our Subdistrict. If I don't teach you a lesson, you might forget your surname!

Chapter 557 – Let's see who will win!

It's almost after office hours.

The noisy promotional activity is still ongoing behind the Guang Ming Subdistrict Office building.

"Li Zhi Restaurant had given out three sets of vouchers. Anyone else wants to participate in our quiz?"

"Me! It should be my turn. I had a queue for half an hour."

"Alright. Let's welcome this guy to the stage."

The glass windows vibrate from the noise, and the Subdistrict Office's staff cannot concentrate on their work.

Work Party Secretary Office.

Dong Xuebing calmly called Chu Qinghua. They had exchanged numbers at the banquet earlier.

"Hello, Director Chu?"

"Oh, Director Dong. What is it?"

"Many of our residents had lodged complaints against Li Zhi Restaurant under your jurisdiction. Didn't your residents complain against them?"

"Really? I don't know about this. No one had told me about this. What happened?"

"Noise pollution. They are shouting through speakers and affected our residents. Our Subdistrict Office can hear them even with our windows closed. Director Chu, I don't believe that your residents did not complain against them. Shouldn't you send your men to check?"

“Oh? I don’t know about this. I will get someone to investigate.”

Dong Xuebing sneered. “You don’t know about this?! Maybe. But let me put this straight. Don’t go overboard.”

Chu Qinghua coldly replied. “What do you mean?”

“You should know what I mean.” Dong Xuebing has a foul temper and doesn’t mind falling out with Chu Qinghua. He did not give Dong Xuebing any ‘face’ and still used dirty tricks behind his back. How can Dong Xuebing tolerate him? “I will not mention this afternoon’s incident, but I will keep that in mind. You might not understand my character, but you will know soon enough. Now, your Subdistrict Office is letting Li Zhi Restaurant cause disturbance to the surrounding residents and ignoring their complaints. Not only are your residents affected, but our residents are also affected. I hope Ping An Subdistrict Office will do your job and do something with Li Zhi Restaurant!”

Chu Qinghua laughed. “We don’t need Guang Ming Subdistrict to teach us what to do.”

“I also hope so. If this dispute is not solved, I don’t mind helping some useless Leaders do their job!”

Dong Xuebing hangs up the phone.

Five minutes....

Ten minutes....

Twenty minutes....

It’s after work hours, but Dong Xuebing did not see any staff from Ping An Subdistrict Office appearing at Li Zhi Restaurant. They are not going to do anything.

Is this a provocation against me?!

Fine! Let’s see who will win!

Dong Xuebing grabbed his bag, got into his car, and sped to Li Zhi Restaurant. He has never been afraid of anyone when it comes to causing trouble. Or else, he will not be called the God of Plague!

A big crowd is still outside of the restaurant’s entrance.

Dong Xuebing stopped his car and saw Zhou Yanru, Qu Yiqiang, Meng Shenguo, and other Subdistrict Office staff. Many staff will use this road to return to their Quarters. Guang Ming Subdistrict Office staff were furious over the noise disturbance and had come over to question Li Zhi Restaurant. Guang Ming Subdistrict and Ping An Subdistrict are not on good terms for years and have clashed countless times. Li Lu’s actions had also pissed them off.

“Remove the speakers immediately! This is an offense!”

“It’s only a promotion activity, and it’s not that serious.”

“You all had affected a Government Department office! Are you all trying to revolt?”

“It’s after office hours now. We will end our activity soon.”

Meng Shenguo and the rest had started arguing with Li Lu. Still, the latter showed an arrogant attitude and ignored them.

Dong Xuebing got out of his car.

“Director.”

“Director Dong.”

Dong Xuebing looked at the few speakers and asked. “Did anyone from Ping An Subdistrict Office come?”

Qu Yiqiang shook his head. “I didn’t see them.”

“They did not come.” Zhou Yanru angrily replied. “It’s been the whole afternoon. Some Ping An Subdistrict residents had come over to tell them to lower the volume and even called the Police. But none of their Police Officers came.”

Meng Shenguo asked. “Director, what should we do?”

Li Lu frowned when he saw Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing stared at Li Lu. “Are you not going to remove the speakers?”

At this moment, one of the waiters shouted. “Boss, we have given out all the vouchers.”

“Give out another 2,000 RMB worth of dining vouchers!” Li Lu shouted and did not look at Dong Xuebing. This implies that he is going to carry on with his promotion activity.

Zhou Yanru is furious. Guo Mingfeng and Yu Rongfeng, who had just arrived, were also furious. This is not the time to talk about factions. They are all from Guang Ming Subdistrict, and they are united against outsiders. All of them could not work because of the noise.

They are continuing?!

Dong Xuebing smiled and walked aside to make a phone call. He is calling Yu Meixia’s father, Liu Chenlong.

“Hello, Uncle Liu? I’m Xiao Dong.”

“Haha... I heard you had been transferred to Nan Shan District. When are you free? Let’s meet up for a drink.”

“Sure.” Dong Xuebing paused for a second. “Uncle Liu, there’s something I need....”

“What’s wrong?”

“There is a stubborn guy, the owner of Li Zhi Restaurant, at Nan Shan District, Ping An Street No. 3. They are making noise pollution with large speakers, disturbing our work. I hope you....” Dong Xuebing had looked for Liu Chenlong because Dong

Xuebing had helped him once in Japan. Liu Chenlong owed him a favor, and he was recently appointed as Fen Zhou City's Electricity Company General Manager.

Liu Chenlong thought for a while. "This is a small matter. Ping An Street No. 3, right?"

"Yes."

"Alright. I will make a call."

"Thank you, Uncle Liu."

After hanging up, Dong Xuebing lit a cigarette and saw Zhou Yanru and the rest waiting for his instructions. He took a puff and walked back slowly. He tapped Li Lu, who is ordering his staff. "I had given you a chance, and you are the one who refused it. We have nothing more to say now. Mr. Li, since you want to play this game, I will play with you. Let's see who will win."

Li Lu had a smirk on his face.

Zhou Yanru and the rest heard what Dong Xuebing said to Li Lu and were stunned.

Suddenly there was a loud click, and the speakers stopped working. All the lights in Li Zhi Restaurant went out. It was total darkness!

Li Lu got shocked and is stunned!

Chapter 558: Wicked!

Afternoon, 5.30 pm.

Ping An Street. The sudden situation had caught everyone from Li Zhi Restaurant off guard.

"What is going on?"

"Hello? Hello? The speakers had stopped working."

"Why are the lights in the restaurant not working?"

"Check the circuit breaker!"

"It is not a short-circuit. I think it is a blackout!"

The restaurant workers are running around. It is the dinner peak hour, and they have lots of diners. The loud commotion in the afternoon had attracted more diners, and they were almost half-filled. But the diners' dinners are disrupted. Although the sun had not set yet, it was dark inside. The air conditioners had also stopped. How are the diners going to eat their dinner in the dark and heat? All the diners started complaining.

"What is going on?"

"How are we going to eat?"

"Why is it so dark?"

Li Lu is looking terrible. Why did a blackout happen at this time?

But blackouts are common, and power will be restored after a few minutes. Li Lu and the restaurant staff thought it was just another blackout. Li Lu looks at his watch and waits for the electricity to come back. He did not even make any calls, as blackouts will affect a big area. Someone will report it.

But a staff suddenly exclaimed. "Eh, Boss!"

Li Lu looks at her. "What's wrong?"

"This..." The waitress looked around. "It seems that we are the only business that is experiencing a blackout."

Her words reminded everyone else.

"What?" Li Lu and the rest look around. The barber's pole at the barber opposite is still spinning, and business is as usual at the small general store next door.

Other than Li Zhi Restaurant, the whole street is not affected!

Damn! What is the meaning of this?!

Before Li Lu could get over his shock, Dong Xuebing patted his shoulder again. "I wish you to have a prosperous business." He turns to the rest. "Director Zhou, Director Meng, let's go. I will give you all a ride." Dong Xuebing returned to his Cayenne. Zhou Yanru, Meng Shenguo, and Qu Yiqiang exchanged looks and smiled. They took a last look at the commotion in Li Zhi Restaurant and boarded Dong Xuebing's car. They remembered what Dong Xuebing said. "Let's see who will win." By now, everyone knows Director Dong causes this blackout!

This is too wicked!

Electricity is very important to a restaurant. Cutting the electricity is cutting their lifeline!

How is a restaurant going to operate without lights and air conditioning? How are they going to cook their food without their electric ovens? Their fridges will stop working. Li Zhi Restaurant cannot even do business, let alone continuing with their promotion activities!

The Subdistrict Office staff learned something new about Dong Xuebing. Not only is he overbearing, but he is also decisive and ruthless. Some staff members told their colleagues in their offices about Dong Xuebing causing Li Zhi Restaurant to have a blackout, and everyone cheered.

"Serve them right!"

"Stop their electricity!"

"One must be ruthless when dealing with someone like them!"

"This restaurant owner is a moron to provoke us!"

"Director Dong is mad now. Didn't you all want to harass us with your speakers? Carry on! Why are you all so quiet now?"

Who says Director Dong has no backings? The City Daily newspaper, and this blackout incident, show that Dong Xuebing has connections with the City government!

Guang Ming Subdistrict Office staff are rejoicing, and Li Lu could not even smile.

Cutting the electricity? Li Lu knows the severity of this problem and immediately calls Ping An Subdistrict Office. "Hello, I'm Li Lu. Director Liu, our restaurant doesn't have electricity!"

"No electricity?"

"There is no short-circuit, and the surrounding shops are fine. It's just our restaurant that does not have electricity."

"Really? Let me ask for you."

"Alright. Thank you, Director Liu."

Li Lu is young and is bold and fearless when he opens this restaurant. But Dong Xuebing had cut his electricity, and it is cutting his source of income. He still has to pay the rental, ingredients, wages, etc. The losses incurred per day are too high for a newly opened restaurant. He had focused on building a close relationship with Ping An Subdistrict Office and had never thought much about that young Director from the neighboring Subdistrict!

Cut my electricity?!

I shall see how long you can cut it!

Li Lu knows Dong Xuebing is only scaring him. He had paid his electrical bills on time, and the electric company could not cut his electricity. He is not scared and doesn't think Dong Xuebing can stop his electricity for days. Even if Dong Xuebing wants to do that, the electricity will never agree as they will be held responsible. That's why he thinks the blackout will last an hour at most.

Ring... ring.... Li Lu's phone rang.

"Hello, Director Chu." Li Lu answered.

Chu Qinghua said. "I heard from Xiao Liu. What happened?"

Li Lu complaint angrily. "It's Dong Xuebing from Guang Ming Subdistrict! He made a phone call earlier, and our electricity got cut! This is taking revenge on our restaurant!"

"I had called the City's Electric Company about the blackout, and they still have not to get back to me. Don't be anxious. Just wait for a while and see how it goes."

Li Lu is assured. "Ok."

Everyone did not expect the blackout to last too long, but they are wrong!

The restaurant's counter staff received a phone call and ran out in a hurry. "Boss! The City Electric Company had called us!"

Li Lu asked. "What did they say?"

The waitress replied. "They are repairing the cables and are informing us about the electricity cut."

"How long will it take?"

The waitress started stuttering.

Li Lu gave her a stare. "I am asking you a question!"

"The Electric Company's staff say electricity will be cut indefinitely and told us to be prepared!"

Indefinitely?!

Li Lu heard that, and his face turned green!

What does that mean? Are they stopping electricity for a day, a week, or a month?

F*CK you, Dong Xuebing!

Li Lu did not expect Dong Xuebing to be so ruthless and thought he was only scaring him. Suddenly, he remembers that Dong Xuebing had beat up his Subdistrict's residents. If he dares to beat up civilians, what else does he not dare to do?

Indefinite cable repair works?!

Li Lu almost cursed out loud. He had met lots of Government Leaders and staff, but he had never met any Leaders as wicked as Dong Xuebing! He had cut his electricity with a phone call indefinitely!

How is he going to run his restaurant?!

Chapter 559: Cutting the electricity, water, and gas?!

Evening.

Li Zhi Restaurant.

The power is not resumed after half an hour.

It is still not resumed after an hour.

It is two hours since the blackout, and all the customers have left. Many of them did not even pay for their meals. Li Lu is the only person left in the restaurant, and he is on the phone with Fen Zhou City Electrical Company.

"I had paid my electric bills! Why are you cutting our electricity?! I want an explanation!" Li Lu shouted.

"We are not cutting your electricity. We are just repairing the cables." The operator calmly replied.

"You all are just repairing our cables?! What about the rest?! Why are the shops around us not affected?"

"That is because there are some problems with your restaurant's cables. That's why we are repairing it."

"You all are purposely finding trouble! I am warning you! If you all don't resume our electricity within an hour, I will sue you!" Li Lu threatened.

“Who is going to be responsible if we don’t repair the cables? Please understand that this is for everyone’s safety. We had informed you all over the phone earlier, and we will send an official document tomorrow. The reason for stopping the electricity will be stated in the document. Oh, we can’t do anything if you want to sue us. Please prepare all the materials for the lawsuit yourself.” The operator hangs up on Li Lu.

Damn! Li Lu threw his phone on the table. What is wrong with your attitude?!

Li Lu realized that the person helping Dong Xuebing was a big shot. The Electrical Company is refusing all his demands, and there’s no room for negotiation. He knows the Electrical Company is a monopoly and is a state-owned enterprise. Sue them?! Putting aside the chances of winning, such lawsuits can take up to a few months. Even if he won and the compensation from the Electrical Company is not enough to cover his rents!

Many people are laughing when they pass the restaurant.

These people are nearby residents who had asked Li Lu to lower the speakers’ volume. Some are Guang Ming Subdistrict staff. The arrogant Li Zhi Restaurant had gotten itself into trouble, and everyone was amused. All of them are there to laugh at them.

Guang Ming Subdistrict Office staff were unhappy with Li Zhi Restaurant. Still, they could not do anything as the restaurant is under Ping An Subdistrict’s jurisdiction. Ping An Subdistrict Office did not take any action against Li Zhi Restaurant, and Guang Ming Subdistrict Office staff could only tolerate it in their office. But their Director Dong went over and cut their electricity with a phone call! Nothing can be more wicked than

This! Although it is wicked, it is better than reporting it to the District Government, and it is more effective!

Li Lu starts to panic. Every minute without electricity is a minute of loss. He immediately made a few more phone calls.

Li Lu called Ping An Subdistrict Office, his friends in the City, and many others to resolve this issue. But he is disappointed with their replies.

Fen Zhou City Electrical Company’s higher management ordered to stop the electricity supply to his restaurant.

None of his friends can help him.

Li Lu knew the person who was helping Dong Xuebing was someone powerful. Still, he did not expect it to be one of the Electrical Company’s higher management. The authority of the electrical distribution department head and the Electrical Company’s higher management are miles apart. The electrical companies are the equivalent of the National Energy Commission, which was disbanded years ago. The head of this department is a Divisional Chief ranked position. It is the same rank as a City Government’s No. 1. It is still the same now. The Electrical Companies are more independent now and report directly to the Central Government. They don’t need to interact with the local authorities. Even the City’s Party Secretary cannot interfere with their operations or transfers. That’s why the Electrical Companies don’t need to give ‘face’ to the local authorities, as they don’t interfere. Only the top executives of Hebei Provincial Electrical Company and the top Government Officials from the Central Government can interfere with their operations and transfers.

Li Lu finally understands the gravity of this situation. He is not even qualified to speak to the City's Electrical Company Leaders. They made it clear that they were cutting his power. He can go ahead and sue them, but it will not change anything!

What can Li Lu do now?

There is nothing he can do against such a powerful organization!

Li Lu punched the table in anger. He dares to go ahead with the promotional activity in the afternoon is because he had made arrangements with Ping An Subdistrict Office. He can ignore the complaints from the residents because he has the authority. Now, the situation is reversed. He got a taste of being suppressed by a higher authority, and it didn't feel good. It is the dinner peak hour for his restaurant now, and it should be full of customers. But there's not a single customer now!

"Boss." A staff walks over. "The meat in the fridge is going bad, and we can't keep the vegetables for long."

Another staff added. "We still have not done the accounts today, and everything is stored in the PC."

At this moment, a group of men entered. They are customers, who had made reservations yesterday, and they are furious to see the current state of the restaurant. "We had reserved a private dining room yesterday! Where is your credibility?!" A waiter quickly went over to explain, and that group of customers left angrily. They should not be patronizing this place again.

Li Lu felt his head was going to explode. Without electricity, he cannot continue with his business!

How long is this situation going to last?! One week? One month?

Li Lu doesn't dare to think about it. If Dong Xuebing is that ruthless, he can just close down this restaurant and not waste time.

"Old Li." Li Lu's wife alighted from a taxi and walked quickly into the restaurant. "What happened?"

Li Lu pulled a long face. Although he is running the restaurant, he knows his wife is smarter than him. That's why he will tell her everything. He told her what happened and cursed Dong Xuebing at the end. "This Dong Xuebing is trying to force me into my grave!"

Li Lu's wife sighed. "Haven't you heard of the saying, Civilians should not challenge officials? Why must you challenge him?"

Li Lu replied. "I did not challenge his authority. I was only promoting my restaurant, and what has it got to do with Guang Ming Subdistrict Office? How can he cut my electricity? He is abusing his power!"

"He is abusing his power, and what can you do about it?"

Li Lu kept quiet.

"I think it is this afternoon's banquet." Li Lu's wife continued. "That should be the cause of this issue. You know the dish, Women at 40, is not suitable to be served, why did you still serve it? That is how you offended Dong Xuebing."

Li Lu waved his hand. "What do you know? We are under Ping An Subdistrict, and I need to have a good relationship with Chu Qinghua to continue my business here."

"I don't know?! You are being made used by others!" Li Lu's wife scolded. "What has the conflicts between both Subdistricts and them disliking each other got to do with you? Why are you getting yourself involved? Even if Dong Xuebing is not overlooking this street, he is still a Subdistrict Office's Director. Do you think he is someone you can go against with?! Just see what happened. He can cut our electricity with just a phone call. Do you think you can win against him?"

I heard a District Organization Department Deputy Chief had lost his Party School training spot because of Dong Xuebing! That is an officer from the District's Organization Department, and they didn't even dare to do anything to Dong Xuebing! Are you more powerful than them?!"

Li Lu took a deep breath. "I am not stupid. I would not offend him if I had a choice. It was Chu Qinghua who instigated me to serve that plate of Soybean residue. What can I do?"

I also don't want to offend him. I had shown my loyalty to him in both incidents. We are the designated restaurant for Ping An Subdistrict Office events now. do you know how much we can make with their support?"

Ring... ring... ring... Chu Qinghua's number appeared on Li Lu's phone.

Li Lu immediately answered. "Director Chu."

Chu Qinghua coldly replied. "I had helped you check with the City Electrical Company, and they are firm with their decision. Just wait a while longer. They can't stop your electricity for too long."

"But our..."

"Just wait it out. I am had tried my best to help you."

Li Lu clenched his teeth, and he hung up. "Chu Qinghua is not influential enough to speak to that person from the Electrical Company. He asked me to wait until they resume our power."

Li Lu's wife coldly replied. "Chu Qinghua is also not a good person!"

"Let's not talk about this now. What should we do?"

"Indefinite power disruption. Didn't you catch the underlying meaning?" Li Lu's wife can see clearer as she was not involved. "The City Electrical Company cannot stop our electricity for too long without any reason. Their reputation will be affected."

Li Lu frowned. "You are saying...."

"Indefinitely is an exaggerated duration. It might mean one day or one year. Dong Xuebing had done this is to make us apologize to him. Nothing will work if we look for the Electrical Company. We only need to seek Dong Xuebing's forgiveness, and our electricity will resume."

Li Lu shouts. "Apologize?! Impossible!"

His wife asked. "Which is more important? Your business or your 'face'?"

"But you mentioned that the Electrical Company cannot stop our power supply for too long."

"What if it is three days or five days? What are you going to do with the losses? Also, this is only my guess. Who knows if he cut our electricity for one month?"

Li Lu kept quiet. This might be possible for someone as wicked as Dong Xuebing. He can still remember what he said earlier. "Since you want to play this game, I will play with you. Let's see who will win." It showed Dong Xuebing's attitude, and he got to admit he can never win against him!

The electricity can be cut today. What if the water supply is cut tomorrow, and the gas supply is cut the day after?!

Which business can withstand this?!

Chapter 560: Apology!

Next day.

Morning, 8.30 am.

Dong Xuebing glanced at Li Zhi Restaurant as he drove past on his way to Guang Ming Subdistrict Office.

"Look, Director Dong is here."

"Have you all seen it on your way to work?"

"Yes. Li Zhi Restaurant's electricity is not resumed."

"Served them right. That restaurant's Boss had asked for it."

"That's right. It's been a day. Let's wait and see what he will do."

"Eh, do you think the blackout will last one day? They had paid their electrical bills."

"I think it will not end if he doesn't bow down. That is not our Director's style."

"I agree with you."

"What is our Director's style?"

All Guang Ming Subdistrict Office staff are united and had been talking about yesterday's incident. Their subdistrict and Ping An Subdistrict had clashed several times, but the former Director was a pushover. He was suppressed by Geng Xinke and did not achieve any outstanding results. He is too 'soft,' and Dong Xuebing is the opposite. Guang Ming Subdistrict Office became a tiger after he arrived and started attacking anyone who dared to offend him. This sudden change made all the staff speechless.

Party Secretary Office.

Dong Xuebing is going through the pile of documents on his desk.

Knock, knock. Zhou Yanru entered. "Director, have you taken your breakfast?"

"Not yet." Dong Xuebing smiles. "I worked up late and didn't have time."

Zhou Yanru placed a few plastic bags of food on the desk. "I saw your car passing by the breakfast stall this morning, and I guess you must have skipped your breakfast. So, I brought some for you. These are local products from my husband's hometown. It's some snacks, and you can have them. I will leave these here."

"Ah, I can't finish everything. You can just give me half of it."

"My husband had bought a lot, and I will be giving out to my staff later."

"Alright. I will give some to my mother." Dong Xuebing looks at the snacks, and it is not expensive. Zhou Yanru will not bring expensive staff to the workplace as there will be gossips. But Dong Xuebing felt it was not right for him to accept these gifts, as she had bought groceries for him the last time. He opened his drawer and took out two cartons of Zhong Hua cigarettes. "Give these to your husband."

When Zhou Yanru was about to reject, Wang Yuling entered the office. "Director... Eh, Sister Zhuo?"

Dong Xuebing looks at her. "Director Wang, you are here at the right time."

Wang Yuling looks at the two cartons of Zhong Hua cigarettes in Zhou Yanru's hands.

Dong Xuebing took out another two cartons of Fu Rong cigarettes and gave them to Wang Yuling. "I bought too many cigarettes. These two cartons are for you."

Wang Yuling was surprised. "I don't smoke...."

Dong Xuebing interrupted. "Give it to your boyfriend then. Take it."

Wang Yuling smiles and accepts it. "Ok. Thank you. These are expensive cigarettes."

Zhou Yanru saw Wang Yuling accepting the cigarettes, and she accepted it too.

These four cartons cost at least 2,000 RMB. Their families seldom smoke such expensive cigarettes unless during Lunar New Year or special occasions. They did not expect Dong Xuebing to give out four cartons of expensive cigarettes. It seems he is very wealthy. Dong Xuebing does not know he has so many cigarettes in his drawer. These are not given to him as gifts and are all bought by him. After his asset grew to a few hundred million, he stopped monitoring his expenditure. Sometimes when he forgets his cigarette, he will buy one or two cartons. He did not notice that he had kept so many cartons in his drawer.

Zhou Yanru and Wang Yuling thanked Dong Xuebing for the cigarettes.

Dong Xuebing shook his head. "Director Wang, are you looking for me?"

Dong Xuebing will address them as Director Zhou and Director Wang when they are discussing work.

Wang Yuling nodded. "The District's All-China Women Federation had given me a task, and I need to visit the neighborhood committees. But our cars... Can I use your Passat?"

Dong Xuebing smiles. "Go ahead. Director Zhou should have the spare keys. Just inform her will do."

The best car in Guang Ming Subdistrict is that old Passat, and Subdistrict Office's Directors are not assigned cars. That's why this car is assigned to the Office Department, and everyone can use it. Although this is the regulation, it is reserved for the Director most of the time. This is an unspoken rule, and everyone knows about this. If they need to use it urgently, they have to seek permission from the Director.

"Do we have enough vehicles in our Subdistrict Office?" Dong Xuebing asked.

Zhou Yanru shook her head. "We have two cars shared between the various departments, and everyone has to take turns. Sometimes, we have to borrow the Work Party Secretary's car for urgent matters."

"Have we applied to the District?"

"The District will give us budget every year, and it is not enough for us to get new vehicles."

"Ok." Dong Xuebing points to the carpark direction. "I have a car, and I don't need that Passat. The rest can take the keys from you to use it."

"Errr... are you sure?"

"That's settled. If this still cannot solve the problem, I will speak to the District Government." Dong Xuebing knows the District will not give his Subdistrict Office new vehicles because of his relationship.

Ring... ring... ring... the phone on the desk rung.

Zhou Yanru and Wang Yuling heard it and were about to leave.

But Dong Xuebing answered before they could say anything. This is to show he did not consider them as outsiders. "Hello, I'm Dong Xuebing."

It's a call from the guardhouse. "Director, a man named Li Lu is downstairs...."

Dong Xuebing laughed. "Li Lu?"

"Should we let him enter?"

"I am busy. Tell him to come back in the afternoon."

"Alright."

Zhou Yanru is laughing in her heart. The Boss of Li Zhi Restaurant is here?! Why did you wait until now? All these would not happen if you did not create problems for us!

Wang Yuling had gone to the bride's house yesterday afternoon and did not know what happened. She quickly dragged Zhou Yanru to ask her what happened after leaving Dong Xuebing's office.

Afternoon.

When Dong Xuebing returned to his office after lunch, he saw a Silver Santana entering the compound. It does not have a registration plate, and it is brand-new. Many Staff Members saw the driver. It is Li Lu, the Boss of Li Zhi Restaurant.

Dong Xuebing pretended not to see him and continued to walk to the side building.

“Director Dong! Director Dong, please hold on for a second!” Li Lu got out of the car and ran after Dong Xuebing. “I am here to apologize.”

Li Lu’s expression is different from yesterday’s. All the Staff Members are amused. If you had lower down the volume and switched off your speaker, you don’t need to come and apologize. Why must you wait until our Director teaches you a lesson?

Dong Xuebing turns. “Oh, it’s Mr. Li. Apologize? What have you done wrong?”

Li Lu was here to bow down to Dong Xuebing. “I did not control the volume yesterday and had disturbed your Subdistrict Office. I’m very sorry.”

Dong Xuebing looks at Li Lu. “We are not the only ones that are affected.”

“Yes... yes... I had disturbed the surrounding residents. I am very sorry, and we promise this will not happen again.” Dong Xuebing did not reply to him, and Li Lu knows this issue cannot be settled easily. The main cause of Dong Xuebing’s fury is the soybean residue dish in the afternoon. “Director Dong, our restaurant decided to sponsor your Subdistrict a Volkswagen Santana to show our sincerity. I had driven the car here. Please accept it.”

Dong Xuebing smiles. Not bad. Li Lu had found out our Subdistrict Office has a shortage of cars.

This new Santana is the latest model, and it cost around 70 to 80 thousand RMB. Coupled with yesterday’s losses, Li Lu’s total loss is more than 100 thousand RMB, and it’s all because of a plate of 10 RMB Soybean residue dish. He is not wealthy, and 100 thousand is a big amount. His heart is aching, but he has no choice. His electricity was cut, and his losses will increase if it is not resumed. He no longer cares about his ‘face’ and positions himself very low. He even apologizes to Dong Xuebing in front of all the staff members and leaders.

“It is all our fault.” Li Lu replied sincerely. “I hope Director Dong and all the comrades can give us a chance to change. Oh, I have some dining vouchers with me. Please accept it.” He can only hope Dong Xuebing can accept his gifts and he can reopen his restaurant.

Dong Xuebing laughed in his heart. Hmmm... this is the right attitude.

“..... Come to my office.”